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History of the American Revolution. By George Bancroft, Corresponding Member of the Royal Institute. In three volumes. Vol. II. Bentley.

MR. BANCROFT'S work improves as it advances. The author excels in narrative, and as the events of the story thicken there is less room for indulging in those general reflections and disquisitions, in which he is less happy. Of the merits as well as the faults of his style as a historian we have already spoken, in reviewing the first volume of the present work (*ante*, p. 364). We are not disposed to repeat any general criticism, but we are pleased to find that the same candid and temperate tone is continued in the more difficult part of the narrative on which he has now entered. For a historian to be devoid of all personal or national bias we formerly said was neither possible nor desirable. Enough of feeling Mr. Bancroft throws into his narrative to sustain interest—never enough to give offence. In the previous part of the history, such as the growth of the colonies, and the conquest of Canada, the events were those in which a common interest was felt on both sides of the Atlantic. Now he has reached a period when English and American readers cannot help being moved by various and sometimes conflicting feelings. As far as he carries the narrative in this volume, which closes with the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766, there are few passages which could give offence to the most prejudiced of loyal critics. One minor fault of literary taste we must notice in passing, the too frequent introduction of scraps of poetical quotations, sometimes of a kind beneath the dignity of historical narrative. Except on apposite occasions these verses only tend to typographic disfigurement, in order to avoid which in our own columns, we forbear from giving examples from Mr. Bancroft's pages. In one short chapter there are no less than five of these poetical breaks, most of them weakening rather than enforcing the point of the passage. A greater fault of style, to which we referred in our previous notice, the tendency to grandiloquent verbosity, is far less apparent in this volume.

The early chapters contain an ably written and interesting account of the state of Europe at the close of the Seven Years' War. This part of the work is really well done. The leading historical features of the time, in Prussia, France, Italy, Spain, Holland, and other continental countries, are briefly sketched; and the spirit of the age, in philosophy and religion as well as in politics, is described with intelligence and animation. The chapter on "England as it was in 1763" is a pleasant picture, but here the colouring both of the dark and bright side of the subject is too high. Yet, though it were easy to find fault with particular statements, the view of the social and political condition of England in the middle of last century is on the whole faithful and just. We can make allowances for the exaggeration in which Americans are apt to indulge in speaking of "the land of their fathers." Of many fine passages we give one which is almost in the strain of Washington Irving:—

"But if aristocracy was not excluded from towns, still more did it pervade the rural life of England.

The climate not only enjoyed the softer atmosphere that belongs to the western side of masses of land, but was further modified by the proximity of every part of it to the sea. It knew neither long-continuing heat nor cold; and was more friendly to daily employment throughout the whole year, within doors or without, than any in Europe. The island was 'a little world' of its own; with a 'happy breed of men' for its inhabitants, in whom the hardihood of the Norman was intermixed with the gentler qualities of the Celt and the Saxon, just as nails are rubbed into steel to temper and harden the Damascus blade. They loved country life, of which the mildness of the climate increased the attractions; since every grass and flower and tree that had its home between the remote north and the neighbourhood of the tropics would live abroad, and such only excepted as needed a hot sun to unfold their bloom, or perfect their aroma, or ripen their fruit, would thrive in perfection: so that no region could show such a varied wood. The moisture of the sky favoured a soil not naturally very rich; and so fructified the earth, that it was clad in perpetual verdure. Nature had its attractions even in winter. The ancient trees were stripped indeed of their foliage, but showed more clearly their fine proportions, and the undisturbed nests of the noisy rooks among their boughs; the air was so mild, that the flocks and herds still grazed on the freshly-springing herbage; and the deer found shelter enough by crouching amongst the fern; the smoothly-shaven grassy walk was soft and yielding under the foot; nor was there a month in the year in which the plough was idle. The large landed proprietors dwelt often in houses which had descended to them from the times when England was gemmed all over with the most delicate and most solid structures of Gothic art. The very lanes were memorials of early days, and ran as they had been laid out before the Conquest; and in mills for grinding corn, water-wheels revolved at their work just where they had been doing so for at least eight hundred years. Hospitality also had its traditions; and, for untold centuries, Christmas had been the most joyous of the seasons.

"The system was so completely the ruling element in English history and English life, especially in the country, that it seemed the most natural organization of society, and was even endeared to the dependent people. Hence the manners of the aristocracy, without haughtiness or arrogance, implied rather than expressed the consciousness of undisputed rank; and female beauty added to its loveliness the blended graces of dignity and humility—most winning where acquaintance with sorrow had softened the feeling of superiority, and increased the sentiment of compassion."

After referring to some of the evils that marred this happy commonwealth, such as the abuses of state patronage, the corruptions of the church, the severity of the criminal code, Mr. Bancroft says:—

"In spite of the glaring defects of this system, Greece, in the days of Pericles or Phocion, had not been blessed with such liberty. Italy, in the fairest days of her ill-starred republics, had not possessed such security of property and person, so pure an administration of justice, such unlicensed expression of mind."

From the internal state of England the author passes to review the condition of her colonies. Here the narrative changes to a sadder strain. Ireland, with its wrongs and misgovernment, gives matter for a very dismal chapter. The strong sympathy which Americans usually have for Ireland is generously expressed by Mr. Bancroft:—

"Such was the Ireland of the Irish;—a conquered people, whom the victors delighted to trample upon, and did not fear to provoke. Their industry within the kingdom was prohibited or repressed by law, and then they were calumniated as naturally idle. Their savings could not be invested on equal terms in trade, manufactures, or real pro-

perty; and they were called improvident. The gates of learning were shut on them, and they were derided as ignorant. In the midst of privations they were cheerful. Suffering for generations under acts which offered bribes to treachery, their integrity was not debauched; no son rose against his father, no friend betrayed his friend. Fidelity to their religion, to which afflictions made them cling more closely, chastity, and respect for the ties of family, remained characteristics of the down-trodden race. America as yet offered it no inviting asylum, though her influence was soon to mitigate its sorrows and relax its bonds. Relief was to come through the conflicts of the North American colonies with Great Britain."

We have so frequently of late had occasion to refer to the policy and the statesmen of England at the time of the first differences with America, that we forbear from re-entering that ground. In noticing the 'Grenville Papers,' (*ante*, p. 81.) the 'Rockingham Memoirs,' (*ante*, p. 125.) and the first volume of Mr. Bancroft's 'History,' (*ante*, p. 364.) the principles on which colonial affairs were conducted have been sufficiently pointed out.

The imposition of taxes on the American colonists was the crowning act of a long series of grievances which had gradually been growing intolerable. "The Stamp Act was the last straw," as Mr. Bancroft says, "that broke the patient camel's back." The wonder now is, not that rebellion broke out, but that submission lasted so long. The statement given by the author, of the wrongs of his country, will surprise many English readers who have heard little of the relations of the colonies to the mother country before matters came to extremities:—

"The colonists could not export the chief products of their industry; neither sugar, nor tobacco, nor cotton, nor wool, nor indigo, nor ginger, nor fustic, nor other dyeing woods; nor molasses, nor rice, with some exceptions; nor beaver, nor peltry, nor copper ore, nor pitch, nor tar, nor turpentine, nor masts, nor yards, nor bowsprits, nor coffee, nor pimento, nor cocoa-nuts, nor whale-fins, nor raw silk, nor hides, nor skins, nor pot and pearl-ashes, to any place but Great Britain, not even to Ireland. Nor might any foreign ship enter a colonial harbour. Salt might be imported from any place into New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and Quebec; wines might be imported from the Madeiras and the Azores, but were to pay a duty in American ports for the British Exchequer; and victuals, horses, and servants might be brought from Ireland. In all other respects, Great Britain was not only the sole market for the products of America, but the only store-house for its supplies.

"The colonists abounded in land, and so could feed flocks of sheep. Lest they should multiply their flocks, and weave their own cloth, they might not use a ship, nor a boat, nor a carriage, no, nor even a pack-horse, to carry wool or any manufacture of which wool forms a part, across the line of one province to another. They could not land wool from islands in the harbour, or bring it across a river. A British sailor, finding himself in want of clothes in their harbours, might not buy there more than forty shillings' worth of woollens.

"Where was there a house in the colonies that did not cherish, and did not possess the English Bible? And yet to print that Bible in British America was prohibited as a piracy; and the Bible, except in the native savage dialects, was never printed there till the land became free.

"That the country, which was the home of the beaver, might not manufacture its own hats, no man in the plantations could be a hatter, or a journeyman at that trade, unless he had served an apprenticeship of seven years. No hatter should employ more than two apprentices; nor might a negro assist at the work. No American hat might be sent from one plantation to another, nor be

loaded upon any horse, cart, or carriage for conveyance.

"America abounded in iron ores of the best quality, as well as in wood and coal; slitting mills, steel furnaces, and plating forges, to work with a tilt-hammer, were prohibited in the colonies as 'nuisances.'

"While free labour was debarred of its natural rights in the employment of its resources, the slave trade was encouraged to proceed with unrelenting eagerness; and in the year that had just expired, from Liverpool alone, seventy-nine ships had gone in that trade to Africa, and had borne to the West Indies and the continent more than 15,300 negroes, two-thirds as many as the first colonists of Massachusetts.

"And now taxation, direct and indirect, was added to colonial restrictions; and henceforward both were to go together. A duty was to be collected on foreign sugar, molasses, indigo, coffee, Madeira wine, imported directly into any of the plantations in America; also a duty on Portugal and Spanish wines, on Eastern silks, on Eastern calicoes, on foreign linen cloth, on French lawn, though imported directly from Great Britain; on British colonial coffee shipped from one plantation to another. Nor was henceforward any part of the old subsidy to be drawn back on the export of foreign goods of Europe or the East Indies, except on the export of white calicoes and muslins, on which a still higher duty was to be exacted and retained. And stamp duties were to be paid throughout all the British American colonies, on and after the 1st day of the coming November."

Some curious illustrations are given of the state of public feeling both in England and America, as to the probable results of the Stamp Act being enforced. The idea of open resistance seems never to have been conceived, even by the warmest friends of America in the old country. Even Franklin, after the fatal measure was passed, had nothing to counsel but passive obedience. Mr. Bancroft gives an extract from a letter written by Franklin to Charles Thompson, dated London, July 11, 1765, "which has never before been correctly published."

"London, July 11th, 1765.

"* * * * * Depend upon it, my good neighbour, I took every step in my power to prevent the passing of the Stamp Act. Nobody could be more concerned in interest than myself to oppose it, sincerely and heartily. But the tide was too strong against us. The nation was provoked by American claims of independence; and all parties joined in resolving by this act to settle the point. We might as well have hindered the sun's setting: that we could not do. But since it is down, my friend, and it may be long before it rises again, let us make as good a night of it as we can. We may still light candles. Frugality and industry will go a great way towards indemnifying us. Idleness and pride tax with a heavier hand than kings and parliaments; if we can get rid of the former, we may easily bear the latter."

A very different turn has been hitherto given to this letter by a slight alteration in the last clause. The version in common circulation has 'if we can get rid of the former, we can easily get rid of the latter.' In November of the same year, Franklin published the letter, with amplifications, in the 'London Chronicle,' from which it was copied into the New York papers, the words being 'bear with,' not 'get rid of.' Mr. Bancroft gives his text from the original, now in the possession of a lady at Newark, Delaware. The point is curious, not only as a characteristic incident in the life of the philosopher, but as illustrating the prevalent feeling in England as to the prospects of colonial resistance. Any opposition to the power of the mother country was scouted with ridicule by Grenville and the ministry. In the House of

Commons, if any questioned the policy of the measure, none disapproved of its principle, nor doubted either the right or the power of Parliament to impose the tax. The Bill passed the Lords "without having encountered an amendment, debate, protest, division, or single dissentient vote." All this is well known in English history, but the tacit acquiescence of the whole of the American agents for the colonies then in London has not before been so fully made known, and while it does not diminish the folly of Grenville's measure, it relieves him from the charge of recklessness in carrying it through at all hazards. After reading the following statements from the correspondence of the colonial agents who were watching the bill, we may well believe the apologetic declaration of Grenville, made some years after, when he said "he had never heard one prophecy that the tax would be resisted;" and "he did not foresee the opposition to the measure, and would have staked his life for obedience." (Speech, 5th of March, 1770, in Cavendish, vol. i. p. 496.)

"Every agent in England believed the stamp tax would be peacefully levied. Not one imagined the colonies would think of disputing the matter with Parliament at the point of the sword. 'It is our duty to submit,' had been the words of Otis. 'We yield obedience to the act granting duties,' had been uttered solemnly by the legislature of Massachusetts. 'If parliament, in their superior wisdom, shall pass the act, we must submit,' wrote Fitch, the governor of Connecticut, elected by the people, to Jackson. 'It can be of no purpose to claim a right of exemption,' thought Hutchinson. 'It will fall particularly hard on us lawyers and printers,' wrote Franklin to a friend in Philadelphia, never doubting it would go into effect, and looking for relief to the rapid increase of the people of America. The agent for Massachusetts had recommended the tax. Knox, the agent for Georgia, wrote publicly in its favour. The honest but eccentric Thomas Pownall, who had been so much in the colonies, and really had an affection for them, congratulated Grenville in advance, 'on the good effects he would see derived to Great Britain and to the colonies from his firmness and candour in conducting the American business.'"

Thomas Pownall was the same who, when retiring from his governorship in New England, said, "In a few years America will be independent of Britain." But the spirit already at work in the colonies was little understood in England. One of the best features of Mr. Bancroft's work, and one in which he has advantage over any English historian, is the fulness with which, from local and official documents, he gives details of the movements going on among the leading men of the several states. The same remark applies to his narrative of the effects produced in various parts of the country by the announcement of the obnoxious measure. Many facts are here adduced, which give a lively idea of the state of feeling, and present, more clearly than heretofore, the real relation of the colonies, at the time, to the old country.

It was only when the tidings slowly reached England of the open and general resistance of the colonists, that any change began to come over the spirit of the British councils. Mr. Bancroft describes well the first astonishment of the ministers, the frequent cabinet consultations, the gradual utterances of public opinion, the renewed parliamentary discussions, and the other results of the reported insubordination of the colonists, until the repeal of the unfortunate Act, under the Rockingham administration, restored for a time

peace and order. To the last, all parties in England were agreed as to the right of imposing the tax, and the change of the law was only advocated on grounds of policy. A curious anecdote is mentioned in Lord Albe-marle's 'Memoirs of the Marquis of Rockingham,' which illustrates the general feeling. After many interviews with the King, whose assent to the repeal he was anxious to have in distinct terms,—

"Rockingham, for fear of mistakes, wrote with a pencil these words, 'Lord Rockingham was authorised by his Majesty, on Friday last, to say that his Majesty was for the repeal.' 'It is very true,' said the King, as he read the paper, 'but I must make an addition to it,' upon which he took a pen, and wrote at the end of it, 'the conversation having only been concerning that, or enforcing it.'"

It thus appears that with all classes, from the King downwards, the change of policy toward the colonies was the result of the alternative which had gradually been presented, of repealing the tax or enforcing it by arms. It was upon this alternative that the memorable debates turned in the House of Commons, when Chatham re-appeared upon the scene, and made some of his noblest efforts of oratory. It was then that the final breach was made between Pitt and the Grenville party. "I doubt," said Pitt, "if there could have been found a minister who would have dared to dip the royal ermine in the blood of the Americans." "No, Sir," replied Grenville, "not dip the royal ermine in blood, but I am one who declare that if the tax was to be laid again, I would do it; and I would do it now, if I had to choose; it becomes doubly necessary, since he has exerted all his eloquence so dangerously against it." At midnight, on the 4th March, 1766, the debate in which this scene occurred closed with a division, in which the members were two hundred and fifty against one hundred and twenty-two. The Stamp Act was repealed, while the right of taxing the colonies was re-asserted. On the 11th of March the second reading took place in the House of Lords, when the greatest number of peers were present that had ever been remembered, and the debate lasted for the then unusual period of twelve hours. The members, including proxies, were a hundred and five against seventy-one. Some who had been most clamorous for enforcing submission, voted in the majority, on the plea of unwillingness on such a question to act against the House of Commons. Then followed the famous Bedford protest, signed by a greater number of peers than had ever signed a protest before. In this document expression was formally given to a subject which had been gradually forcing itself on public notice throughout the whole dispute with the colonies.

"This concession," said the protest, "tends to throw the whole British Empire into a state of confusion, as the plea of our North American colonies, of not being represented in the Parliament of Great Britain, may, by the same reasoning, be extended to all persons in this island who do not actually vote for members of Parliament."

Such, in fact, was the turn which the question had gradually taken, the discussion of the theories of representation and of taxation having led statesmen of all parties to observe that questions affecting the British constitution at home were now raised, of more importance than as they merely affected colonial interests. For some time the subject was shunned or cautiously approached on account of its difficulty, but at length it had to appear

in the debates, and Lord Camden, in the House of Lords, boldly maintained that "taxation and representation are inseparably united, and that this principle is coeval with and essential to the British constitution." Of this principle the ablest and most formidable opponent was Lord Mansfield:—

"The doctrine of representation seems ill-founded; there are twelve millions of people in England and Ireland who are not represented. The Parliament first depended upon tenures; representation by election came by the favour of the crown, and the notion now taken up, that every subject must be represented by deputy, is purely ideal. The doctrine of representation never entered the heads of the great writers in Charles I.'s time against ship-money or other illegal exertions of the prerogative, nor was the right of representation claimed in the Petition of Rights at the great era of the revolution."

Thus the debates on the Stamp Act commenced a new period in the history of the home politics of England, as well as of colonial administration. Mr. Bancroft justly remarks that Lord Mansfield clearly saw that not only the independence of America was inevitable at no distant period, but that changes must be made in the British Constitution. Other important points came out as the result of incidental arguments in the course of the debates. To one of these arguments, the difference between the right of internal and of external taxation, allusion was significantly and shrewdly made by Benjamin Franklin, in his examination at the bar of the House of Commons, of which an animated account is given.

"Does the distinction between internal and external taxes exist in the charter of Pennsylvania?" asked a friend of Grenville. "No," said Franklin, "I believe not." "Then," continued the interrogator, with Charles Townshend for a listener, "may they not, by the same interpretation of their common rights, as Englishmen, as declared by Magna Charta and the Petition of Right, object to the Parliament's right of external taxation?" And Franklin answered instantly:—"They never have hitherto. Many arguments have been lately used here to show them that there is no difference, and that, if you have no right to tax them internally, you have none to tax them externally, or make any other law to bind them. At present they do not reason so; but in time they may be convinced by these arguments."

The time did come when the right of any taxation was denied by the colonists, and when the attempt to enforce it led to such disastrous results. Meanwhile, the repeal of the Stamp Act restored harmony for a time. With an account of the rejoicings in America when the news arrived of the concessions of the Government, the present volume closes. We shall look with interest for the continuation of Mr. Bancroft's history. He has truthfully told how Great Britain estranged America. It only remains to tell the story of the renewed oppression of the colonies, the declaration of Independence, and the foundation of the American Republic. These are events of which Englishmen can now read, as Americans like Mr. Bancroft can write, without any violence either of political or of national feeling. Even in 1766, the Tory historian, Dr. Robertson, could say, "I do not apprehend Revolution or Independence sooner than these must or should come."

While reading this volume the news has reached us of the death of America's greatest statesman. The grave had scarcely closed over the remains of Henry Clay, when the nation has to mourn the loss of Daniel Webster. We sympathize with the deep

feeling called forth by such an event. With whatever political faults, especially in his later years, he may be justly charged, his name has long on this side of the Atlantic stood the greatest among the notable men of the United States. We are not surprised at the universal grief which his death has caused throughout the Union, and understand the loss to the councils of the Republic by the removal within so short a period of three men like Calhoun, Clay, and Webster. But however noble the spontaneous outburst of personal regret, the tone of public despondency pervading the American journals, in recording the event, sounds stranger to us, as we read the story of the American Revolution in the pages of Bancroft. "The days of our great civilians," exclaims one writer, "are gone by. We have entered upon the third period of the Republic, and that period has in the case of almost every other nation marked the beginning of its decadence." Such words are unworthy of a people whose national existence yet exceeds not the ordinary duration of a single human life. Daniel Webster was born in the year which saw the close of the American War of Independence. His life extended over exactly the three-score years and ten allotted to man, and great as have been the revolutions in all the world during these seventy years, the epoch has in America most of all been one of change, and that change has been almost unceasing progress. To the records of the past let the thinking men of America look for encouragement in their fears for the future. If English readers receive pleasure, much more may Americans draw comfort and counsel from the lessons of wisdom and courage, of freedom and patriotism, found in their own early national annals as narrated by the latest and best of their native historians.

The One Primeval Language traced experimentally through Ancient Inscriptions in Alphabetic Characters of lost Powers from the Four Continents. By the Rev. Charles Forster, B.D. Part II., *The Monuments of Egypt and their Vestiges of Patriarchal Tradition.* Bentley.

MR. FORSTER proceeds in his investigations of the one Primeval Language with a degree of diligence and zeal which sufficiently proves his own conviction both of the truth and the importance of his discoveries. His first work on the 'Historical Geography of Arabia' contained much valuable matter respecting that hitherto obscure subject, and opened a new field of palæography by making known the Himyaritic inscriptions of Hadramaut. Of his 'Voice of Israel from the Rocks of Sinai,' the first part of the present work, we spoke last year ('L. G.' 1851, p. 323), and expressed our conviction that he had shown Professor Beer's interpretations of the Sinaitic inscriptions to be unsatisfactory. The object of the present volume is to apply the same alphabet and language, by which he believed himself to have unravelled their meaning, to the hieroglyphics of Egypt. His results are entirely at variance with those of Champollion and his followers, against whom he declares war in the following passage of his Preface:—

"The attempts formerly made to convert Egypt and her monuments into the stronghold of infidelity, and recently renewed, in a less daring indeed, but not less dangerous form, seem to call upon all who take a serious interest in the cause of revealed truth, to enter, with the author, upon

an inquiry into the real state and merits of the case: an inquiry based, not on theory, but on experiment, and aiming only to ascertain whether the witness really borne by heathen Egypt be not, like that borne by every other heathen land, a witness to the literal truth, and historical fidelity, of the Books of Moses, and of the whole Word of God.

"When the literal sense of the Mosaic records has been questioned, and the historical authority even of the Gospel history impugned, on the evidence of the broken or pseudo-dynasties of Manetho, on the one hand, and of the supposed discoveries of self-denominated 'Egyptologists,' on the other, inquiry into the phenomena really presented by the monuments of Egypt is no longer a subject of learned curiosity—it becomes a matter of Christian duty. On this high ground it is that the appeal is now made, both to the English public, and to the Christian world.

"We have lived to see the received Biblical chronology assailed, and the Gospel genealogies themselves set aside, by rationalizing theories built solely on the authority of the fragmental history of Manetho, interpreted by alleged discoveries on the monuments. To question, upon grounds like these, the received scriptural chronology, is alone a serious inroad on the credibility of the Sacred History itself. But to question, on any grounds whatsoever, the historical authority, the literal fidelity, the infallible exactness, of the Gospel genealogies, is to strike at the root of Christianity and Revelation. If the names in those genealogies, if any of those names from Adam to Christ Jesus, be names, not of individuals, but of families or nations, if a single link in the heraldic series of generations be thus broken, we lose all note of time. And every wild theorist, from the savans of the French expedition to the savans of the present day, may set up his own chronology, and make the world, at will, 7000 or 70,000 years old."

The tone of this passage is scarcely in accordance with the impartiality essential to the conduct of the inquiry. Why should Egyptologists be stigmatized as self-denominated? The study of Egyptian antiquities requires long years of patient research, a great talent for combination, and altogether qualifications of a rare and peculiar kind. Why should not those who have made this department their special field of inquiry designate themselves, like the geologist or the Hellenist, by an appropriate name? There are, no doubt, pretenders to science in this as in other matters; but one who alleges ignorance and superficiality against such men as Champollion and Rosellini, Lepsius and Bunsen, should beware of the rebound of his own missiles. Mr. Forster speaks of the received scriptural chronology as something which it is irreligious to call in question; but he must be well aware that since the revival of letters, there has been no such thing as a received scriptural chronology, scholars of equal eminence and divines of equal soundness differing widely from each other. Granting that Egyptology has introduced some additional difficulties into this subject, it should not be forgotten how much it has done to confirm the authority and illustrate the meaning of the Pentateuch. Hengstenberg, the least rationalizing of German critics, has derived from this source the materials of his 'Egypt and the Books of Moses,' and hardly a volume of biblical commentary appears, in which a similar use is not made of the labours of Egyptologists.

In his two former works Mr. Forster, interpreting monuments which were found within the limits of Arabia, in Yemen, and the valleys of Sinai, was naturally led to seek the key in an ancient dialect of the Arabic

His present inquiry proceeds on the assumption that the ancient language of Egypt, into which its inscriptions are to be read, was the same:—

"This one primeval language has been identified, at Sinai, as to its vocabulary at least, with the old Arabic. In passing from Sinai to Egypt, I would now premise, that the old Arabic stands identified historically, as well as philologically, with the ancient Egyptian. A writer of great authority among the ancients, Juba, in his 'History of Arabia,' as cited by Pliny, states, that Egypt was originally peopled from Arabia: that the banks of the Nile, from Syene to Meroe, were first colonized by Arab tribes: 'Juba tradit—accolas Nili, à Syene, non Æthiopum populos, sed Arabum esse dixit, usque Meroe.'—*Hist. Nat.*

"But if the people of Egypt, or any considerable part of them, were primitively Arabs, the language of Egypt, it follows, wholly or in part, was primitively Arabic. A consideration which tells with great force in two ways:—1. as corroborating all internal proofs of identity between the Egyptian and the Arabic; and, 2. as confirming, from such internal marks, the testimony of King Juba. That testimony, in truth, is upheld by actual experience. The fact, that the banks of the Nile are now frequented by Arab tribes, is strong presumptive evidence that they were always so frequented; in other words, that they were originally colonized by them. Even as a probability, this reflection gives great weight to coincidences of vocabulary between the old Arabic and the old Egyptian."

Had Juba really asserted that "Egypt was originally peopled from Arabia," we should have said, let the testimony pass for what it is worth: the testimony of a writer contemporary with Julius Cæsar to a fact preceding his own age by at least 3000 years—a writer who has somewhat impaired his own authority in Egyptian matters by informing us that the Nile rises in Mauritania. But "the banks of the Nile from Syene to Meroe" are Nubia, not Egypt. And as Juba adds in the context (*Plin. N. H.*, 36, 34), that Heliopolis, which is on the Arabian side of the Nile, was also said to have been founded by Arabs, it is clear that he did not regard Egypt generally as being peopled by them. Thus the historical identification of the old Arabic with the ancient Egyptian falls away at once.

Philology, however, may afford the evidence which history denies. We have considerable remains of the Coptic, augmented by the recent researches of Tattam and others. That this is, in the main, the language spoken by the subjects of the Ptolemies cannot be doubted, otherwise we should have the unprecedented phenomenon of a language springing up with entirely distinct characters, without foreign admixture, in the heart of a people living in the full light of historic times. But the comparison of the Coptic with the Arabic, or any other Semitic language, shows a radical diversity. Dr. Pritchard observes that "all the most celebrated Coptic scholars have pronounced that language to have nothing in common with the Oriental idioms, except a few words borrowed from the Hebrew and Arabic." This Mr. Forster of course denies; but to the testimonies of such men as La Croze and Jablonski he has nothing to oppose, except that of authors who wrote when the Coptic language was scarcely known in Europe. Still it is possible that the primeval language of Egypt may have been different from that which was in use in later times, and this primeval language we should naturally seek in the hieroglyphical inscriptions. The investigations of Champollion and his followers have shown

that this too is in structure, and in some decree in vocabulary, Coptic, and consequently not Semitic. It was a matter of necessity, therefore, for Mr. Forster, who believes the primeval language of mankind to have been Arabic, and the Egyptians to have been connected with Noah by a generation or two, to overthrow the discoveries of Champollion, and to prove that the whole system of phonetic hieroglyphics is "a dream of a shadow." He maintains boldly that not a single name, whether of Egyptian, Persian, Greek, or Roman sovereigns, is to be found throughout the entire series of the royal cartouches of Egypt. Even should he fail in this attempt, he will have the consolation in reserve, *magnis tamen excidit ausis*.

In deciphering the hieroglyphical cartouche on the Rosetta-stone, Champollion had proceeded on the supposition that it probably represented the Ptolemaios of the Greek inscription, and assigned, tentatively, their phonetic force to the several characters of which it is composed. In so doing Mr. Forster alleges that he overlooked an objection of the gravest kind—namely, that he supposes the Egyptians to have adopted instead of translating Greek proper names, contrary to the analogy of Eastern usage. He has himself, however, overlooked the circumstance that the Ptolemies were sovereigns of Egypt, and that if executed by Egyptians, the monuments on which their names appear were commanded by themselves. His analogical examples of Augustus translated into *Sebastos*, and "lion-hearted" Richard into *Cœur-de-Lion*, are very unfortunate; for Augustus is an epithet, not a proper name, and "lion-hearted" is a translation, and a very modern one, of *Cœur-de-Lion*, by which Richard has been known in our history ever since the name was given him by the Norman-French warriors who accompanied him in his Crusade. We do not think, therefore, that Mr. Forster has shaken to the base, as he believes, the fundamental assumption of Champollion. He objects to Champollion's analysis of the name of Ptolemy that it is purely gratuitous; but so every tentative process must be in the first step; the test is in the second, which was the application of the assumed alphabet to the cartouche of Cleopatra, in which name, if the assumption were correct, several letters should correspond. Mr. Forster represents this second step as equally gratuitous with the first. The author, he says, makes a show of inductive proof by comparison of the *ignotum* with the *ignotius*, bringing to his support from Philæ* a second Ptolemaic cartouche, accompanied by a cartouche of purport unknown, which from its juxtaposition he assumes, without any beyond presumptive proof, to contain in Egyptian characters the Greek proper name for Cleopatra. This, however, is by no means an accurate statement of the fact. It was not from its juxtaposition merely that Champollion presumed the second cartouche might contain the name of Cleopatra, but from finding in the Greek inscription on the base of the obelisk, her name with that of Ptolemy, accompanied with the distinctive sign of the female sex which goddesses, queens, and princesses always exhibit. This may be still called presumptive proof; and so it must continue, even when the alphabet thus obtained has disclosed the names of Alexander, Tiberius, Domitian, Trajan, on monuments the

Greek inscriptions of which testify that they were executed in their reigns. Is nothing to satisfy us but the discovery of a document in which the hieroglyphic characters are given side by side with their phonetic values, certified by an Egyptian scribe?

Discarding altogether the system of Champollion, Mr. Forster substitutes one of his own, by which he reads and interprets the Egyptian monuments. The pictorial figures of a lion, an eagle, a vulpanser, which to Champollion represented sounds, he considers to denote the animals themselves; the other characters, which are not pictorial, are letters, which he reads by means of the demotic inscription of the Rosetta-stone, of his own Himyaritic and Sinaitic alphabet, of the Ethiopic, the Hebrew, or even the Greek, into that ancient Arabic which he regards as the primeval language of mankind. The process by which he arrives at these results could not be made intelligible without his illustrations, but their nature may be exhibited in one or two examples. Thus the cartouche of Ptolemy is said to mean "The lion stretching out the paw, rushing on one unawares;" that of Cleopatra, "The lion assailing, rushing upon, wounding or breaking the head;" and the well-known cartouche of "Amun-mei-Rameses, son of Ra," becomes "A stupid goose scolds." He finds a proof of the primeval antiquity of the language in the disjointed and ungrammatical form in which the legends come out by his process of interpretation, and quotes more than once a saying of Macaulay's, that "rude societies have no scientific grammar, no definitions of nouns and verbs, no names for declensions, moods, tenses, and voices." Our eminent historian, however, would hardly class the wise Egyptians among rude societies, and would certainly disclaim the inference, that a language had no grammar because it had no scientific grammar, or that it made no distinction in use between a noun and a verb, because it had no definitions of them. By dispensing with all grammatical and logical connexion between the words of his legends, Mr. Forster has rendered his own task as an interpreter much easier, but has not increased the probability of his system.

Its most remarkable results, however, are the discovery of some of the most important doctrines of revealed religion on the monuments of ancient Egypt. Whether such a discovery, if real, would strengthen the evidences of revelation, whether it would not rather furnish a plausible ground for saying that Moses had but borrowed these doctrines from the "wisdom of the Egyptians," are questions which it is not within our province to discuss. But we see much that is arbitrary and unsatisfactory in the means by which the results are obtained. For instance, on the mummy case of Menkare (Myserinus), well known to visitors of the British Museum, he finds the doctrine not only of a future life, but of the resurrection of the body. The name of the monarch whom it contained, however, is according to him not Menkare, but Marna: this name he supposes the same with the Maron which has been conjecturally substituted for Inaron in a list given by Diodorus (1, 64) of the builders of the pyramids. Yet this same group of three characters, in the same relative position, which is here read Marn, a little while afterwards, being found over a tree which Mr. Forster supposes to be the Tree of Life, is read Raman, and this being the Arabic for a pomegranate, the dis-

* Mr. Forster spells this very common name sometimes Philæ, sometimes Phylæ; never, we think, rightly.

covery is announced, that the pomegranate was the tree whose fruit tempted our first parents to disobedience.

The phonetic system has now been more than a quarter of a century before the world. Doubt mingled at first with the admiration with which it was received, but doubt has given way before prolonged experience and varied application; and in England, on the Continent, and in America, though scholars may differ in details and inferences, they agree in accepting the principle. Mr. Forster's work displays great Oriental learning and boundless ingenuity, but does not appear to us to have shaken in the slightest degree the basis of Young and Champollion's system.

The History of Henry Esmond, Esq., a Colonel in the Service of Her Majesty Q. Anne.

[Second Notice.]

Our outline of the plot of Mr. Thackeray's novel was brought down in our last number to the point where Esmond has fallen deeply in love with his cousin Beatrix. This young lady (familiarly and appropriately known among her relations as 'Trix,') is beautiful, but naturally wayward, ambitious, and heartless, with these natural defects of character increased by her position at court as a maid of honour, surrounded by a ring of frivolous or profligate admirers. But the young lady's character is best described by herself in a scene where, being rebuked by her mother for her worldliness, she replies:—

"'Worldliness—O my pretty lady. Do you think that I am a child in the nursery, and to be frightened by Bogey? Worldliness, to be sure; and pray, madam, where is the harm of wishing to be comfortable? When you are gone, you dearest old woman, or when I am tired of you and have run away from you, where shall I go? Shall I go and be head nurse to my Popish sister-in-law, take the children their physic, and whip 'em, and put 'em to bed when they are naughty? Shall I be Castlewood's upper servant, and perhaps marry Tom Tusher? *Merci!* I have been long enough Frank's humble servant. Why am I not a man? I have ten times his brains, and had I worn the—well, don't let your ladyship be frightened—had I worn a sword and periwig instead of this mantle and commode, to which nature has condemned me—(though 'tis a pretty stuff, too—cousin Esmond! you will go to the Exchange to-morrow, and get the exact counterpart of this riband, sir, do you hear?)—I would have made our name talked about. So would Graveairs here have made something out of our name if he had represented it. My Lord Graveairs would have done very well. Yes, you have a very pretty way, and would have made a very decent grave speaker,' and here she began to imitate Esmond's way of carrying himself, and speaking to his face, and so ludicrously, that his mistress burst out a laughing, and even he himself could see there was some likeness in the fantastical malicious caricature.

"'Yes,' said she, 'I solemnly vow, own, and confess, that I want a good husband. Where's the harm of one? My face is my fortune. Who'll come, buy, buy, buy! I cannot toil, neither can I spin, but I can play twenty-three games on the cards. I can dance the last dance, I can hunt the stag, and I think I could shoot flying. I can talk as wicked as any woman of my years, and know enough stories to amuse a sulky husband for at least one thousand and one nights. I have a pretty taste for dress, diamonds, gambling, and old China. I love sugar-plums, Malines lace (that you brought me, cousin, is very pretty), the opera, and everything that is useless and costly. I have got a monkey and a little black boy,—Pompey, sir, go and give a dish of chocolate to Colonel Graveairs,—and a parrot and a spaniel, and I must have a husband. Cupid, you hear?

"'Iss, Missis,' says Pompey, a little grinning negro Lord Peterborow gave her, with a bird of Paradise in his turbant: and a collar with his mistress's name on it.

"'Iss, Missis,' says Beatrix, imitating the child. 'And if husband not come, Pompey must go fetch one.'

"And Pompey went away grinning with his chocolate tray, as Miss Beatrix ran up to her mother, and ended her sally of mischief in her common way, with a kiss—no wonder that upon paying such a penalty her fond judge pardoned her."

Beatrix has played with the affections of several noblemen, but without the result of marriage; and we at length find her, after rejecting Esmond, on the point of an alliance, fulfilling her most ambitious wishes, with the Duke of Hamilton. Their marriage is prevented by Hamilton's death in the celebrated duel with Lord Mohun, and the apparent effect of this blow on the pride of Beatrix is told in some effective and touching scenes. Esmond's love and devotion still attend her, though with hopeless passion. The plot is now working to its conclusion. Esmond, Lady Castlewood, and Beatrix, and the young Lord Castlewood, (who has married abroad and turned Papist,) are all staunch Jacobites, and have formed a plot with the leaders of that faction to bring over the Pretender, and make a bold stroke for the kingdom on Queen Anne's death. The Prince comes, accordingly, and is lodged at Lady Castlewood's house at Chelsea. He is drawn in all his vanity, frivolousness, and profligacy, (in perhaps somewhat stronger colours than history warrants,) and it soon becomes evident that the royal guest has made too deep an impression on the heart (or perhaps rather on the vanity) of Beatrix. She is sent to Castlewood to be out of the reach of danger, but contrives to inform the Prince of her destination. The Queen being at the point of death, Mr. Thackeray gives us a variation of Bishop Atterbury's plot, and the leading Jacobites are introduced assembled in London with the view of seizing upon the Crown. At the critical moment the Prince is not in attendance, and the plot is thus frustrated. He has gone to Castlewood in pursuit of Beatrix. Esmond and Lord Castlewood follow, and an interesting scene ensues, which we regret not having room to quote. They are satisfied that Beatrix's honour is still safe, though their arrival is probably none too soon. Esmond reproaches the Prince with his baseness, breaks his sword, and renounces his allegiance to the Stuarts. His love for Beatrix is extinguished, and she soon after follows the Pretender to France. But Esmond finds more than compensation in another attachment, and we shall give the conclusion in his own words:—

"With the sound of King George's trumpets, all the vain hopes of the weak and foolish young Pretender were blown away; and with that music, too, I may say, the drama of my own life was ended. That happiness, which hath subsequently crowned it, cannot be written in words; 'tis of its nature sacred and secret, and not to be spoken of, though the heart be ever so full of thankfulness, save to Heaven and the One Ear alone—to one fond being, the truest and tenderest and purest wife ever man was blessed with. As I think of the immense happiness which was in store for me, and of the depth and intensity of that love, which, for so many years, hath blessed me, I own to a transport of wonder and gratitude for such a boon—nay, am thankful to have been endowed with a heart capable of feeling and knowing the immense beauty and value of the gift which God hath bestowed upon me. Sure, love *vincit omnia*; is im-

measurably above all ambition, more precious than wealth, more noble than name. He knows not life who knows not that: he hath not felt the highest faculty of the soul who hath not enjoyed it. In the name of my wife I write the completion of hope, and the summit of happiness. To have such a love is the one blessing, in comparison of which all earthly joy is of no value; and to think of her, is to praise God.

"It was at Bruxelles, whither we retreated after the failure of our plot—our Whig friends advising us to keep out of the way,—that the great joy of my life was bestowed upon me, and that my dear mistress became my wife. We had been so accustomed to an extreme intimacy and confidence, and had lived so long and tenderly together, that we might have gone on to the end without thinking of a closer tie; but circumstances brought about that event, which so prodigiously multiplied my happiness and hers. The difference of their religion separated the son and the mother; my dearest mistress felt that she was severed from her children and alone in the world—alone but for one constant servant, on whose fidelity, praised be Heaven, she could count. 'Twas after a scene of ignoble quarrel on the part of Frank's wife and mother (for the poor lad had been made to marry the whole of that German family with whom he had connected himself), that I found my mistress one day in tears, and then besought her to confide herself to the care and devotion of one who, by God's help, would never forsake her. And then the tender matron, as beautiful in her autumn, and as pure as virgins in their spring, with blushes of love, and 'eyes of meek surrender,' yielded to my respectful importunity, and consented to share my home. Let the last words I write thank her, and bless her who hath blessed it.

"By the kindness of Mr. Addison, all danger of prosecution, and every obstacle against our return to England, was removed. But we two cared no longer to live in England; and Frank formally and joyfully yielded over to us the possession of that estate, which we now occupy, far away from Europe and its troubles, on the beautiful banks of the Potowmac, where we have built a new Castlewood, and think with grateful hearts of our old home. In our Transatlantic country we have a season, the calmest and most delightful of the year, which we call the Indian summer: I often say the autumn of our life resembles that happy and serene weather; and am thankful for its rest and its sweet sunshine. Heaven has blessed us with a child, which each parent loves for her resemblance to the other. Our diamonds are turned into ploughs and axes for our plantations; and into negroes, the happiest and merriest, I think, in all this country: and the only jewel by which my wife sets any store, and from which she hath never parted, is that gold button she took from my arm on the day when she visited me in prison, and which she wore ever after, as she told me, on the tenderest heart in the world."

We can hardly at once realize to ourselves the fact that this "tender matron," who must have attained her forty-sixth year, is no other than Lady Castlewood. Few novel readers, even amongst those most skilled in foreseeing what is "looming in the future" (of a third volume), will be prepared for this sudden transfer of the hero's affections from daughter to mother. So far as surprise is aimed at, Mr. Thackeray has certainly succeeded, but the effect produced by the contrast of Esmond as Lady Castlewood's husband, with the almost filial position which he has occupied towards her up to the last three pages of the work, is painful and almost shocking. A novelist must be accorded an absolute and despotic power over the destiny of the puppets that are moved upon his stage; but the power should be exercised without caprice, and in this instance we can hardly forgive the author for not reclaiming Beatrix and rewarding Esmond with her hand.

We fear that we shall not meet with general assent in the opinion which we must nevertheless assert, that Lady Castlewood, evidently our author's favourite character, is a failure. Mr. Thackeray in all his novels has two heroines, his good and his wicked one,—Amelia Osborne and Becky Sharp—Helen Pendennis (or Laura) and Blanche Amory—Lady Castlewood and Beatrix, are all examples of this contrast; and unfortunately the wicked one appears to us always to engross (perhaps in spite of the author) by far the greater share of his skill and power in delineation of character, and in the interest of the story. Lady Castlewood is Helen Pendennis in the costume and with the manners of Queen Anne's reign; the same pure, gentle, but somewhat weak-minded personage, by whom, and by Mr. Esmond's raptures with her, we are (to say truth) somewhat wearied. But on the other hand, the wicked heroine, as usual, receives the best treatment at Mr. Thackeray's hands; and Beatrix, in all her beauty, wit, caprice, ambition, and pride, is set before us with admirable grace and spirit. And here we would protest against a blemish which appears to us to pervade all Mr. Thackeray's novels. We allude to the invariable separation in his heroines of intellectual power from moral goodness. Lady Castlewood in this respect is rather better than Amelia or Helen, but they are all little better than pretty, gentle, loving fools. We believe that this representation of female tenderness and virtue as rarely united with high mental endowment is untrue and mischievous. All women of genius are not Wortley Montagues in point of morals.

Esmond himself is interesting, despite the gravity which procured him the name of Don Dismallo, and which (very naturally) wearied Beatrix. He appears to us to have many of the traits of a more accomplished Colonel Dobbin. In other respects, too, Mr. Thackeray occasionally repeats himself, and falls into his own half-sad, half-sardonic vein of moralizing, thus marring the truthfulness of his generally admirable assumption of an antiquated style. But the satire is kindlier and gentler than heretofore, and the effect of the sneer less painful than we have often felt it to be in former works by this author.

We must add a few words on the historical personages introduced. We said in the outset that, in two instances, Mr. Thackeray had succeeded to perfection; and this praise we repeat in reference to Steele and Addison. Swift is a failure, and so is Bolingbroke; indeed, no novelist that we are aware of has yet succeeded with the "all-accomplished St. John." Above all, we must protest against the introduction of Bishop Atterbury as a mere complying courtier-like Bishop, apologizing for royal licentiousness in a style worthy of an Abbé of the days of the Regency, and which very naturally makes Lady Castlewood leave the room. Let Mr. Thackeray read the Bishop's letter to Lord Inverness, upon that nobleman having turned Papist to recover his favour with the Pretender, which Lord Mahon has printed in the second volume of his history, and then say if the author of that beautiful and most dignified composition is fairly represented as an apologist for vices because they are royal ones.

Amongst minor historical characters we should notice the excellent sketch of the brave and boasting old General Webb, to whom the Duke of Argyle is reported to have

said, when he boasted of his four wounds received in battle, "My dear General, I wish you had received one more, and that in your tongue; for then everybody else would have talked of your action." Mr. Thackeray appears to have "spoken on the hint" of this story, and has worked out the character with much skill and humour.

The introduction of the Pretender was necessary to bring about the conclusion of the tale, and Mr. Thackeray can appeal to high precedent (in 'Redgauntlet') for bringing one of the Stuarts to England at a period more suitable to the exigences of his story than to historical truth. How far this truth should be observed where real and notable personages are brought on the scene, is a question of much critical interest, but which we have not now space to discuss.

Our remarks have extended to a length much greater than we usually devote to works of fiction; but Mr. Thackeray's first appearance as a novelist in the orthodox three-volume form is a remarkable event in literature. On the whole, we must conclude by saying that this work, which, as a first appearance, would justly have made a high reputation for its author, can hardly be said to raise the fame of one who has to be tried by the high standard of "Vanity Fair."

Excursions in Ireland during 1844 and 1850, with a visit to the late Daniel O'Connell, M.P. By Catherine M. O'Connell. Bentley.

THERE is little to justify the publication of this lady's journal of two excursions in Ireland, beyond the interest attaching to the writer's acquaintance with Mr. O'Connell, and her experience of the festivities and hospitalities of Darrynane. From this part of the narrative we may therefore select a few extracts:—

"To me Darrynane, in its seclusion, seemed a sweet haven of rest to the troubled spirit of the man who toiled and fretted through so many years of agitated public life; from it the world was shut out by mountains and waters. Here, forgetting for a brief space the noisy life the Agitator had quitted, he might repose—the beloved head of a most happy home circle, dispensing a boundless hospitality. On our arrival, Mr. O'Connell and some members of his family were walking in the gardens, and we immediately joined them, and loitered there most pleasantly together until the shades of evening warned us to separate. A very large party met at dinner, a mixture of nations, several foreigners, some English, and the large majority Irish. Darrynane was open to all, and its present sociability was never destroyed by politics. Mr. O'Connell had laughs and jokes against members of his family, but the guests were well secure from even a shade of unpleasantness in any allusion to religion or politics. The house of Darrynane is large, an odd, irregular pile of building, rooms added on to the old house, without any regard to architectural design; yet look at it from the western rocks beyond the beach, and the whole had a most pleasing effect; here the castellated projection forming Mr. O'Connell's study and the libraries, here a pointed gable-end, and behind the high roofs of the older house. The rooms were comfortably furnished, and it required a full development of the organ of locality to find one's way, on a short acquaintance, through the various ante-rooms and passages leading to the bed-room.

"The drawing-room was very large, and served as a ball-room every night, for there was a numerous party of dancing people now in the house. How gay were those pleasant *soirées dansantes*! No matter what had been the fatigues of the morning, dancing was supposed the best remedy for them."

On the next morning a hunting party was formed:—

"Another hare was soon started, and her death-scene brought us over Coomakishta, and seated in a sheltered nook, with Ballinskelligs bay below us, and wild mountains above and around, we prepared for the business of breakfast with sporting appetites. The scene was a novel and interesting one; seated on a stone with various members of his family, and his guests grouped around him, was the 'Liberator,' a sense of freedom in his looks;—that wild country how unlike his prison!—and ruddy health bloomed on his cheek that fresh morning; farther off were the hounds reposing from their labours, with their attendant huntsmen, and their body-guard of young sturdy mountaineers. Near us were piles of bread and meat and butter, smoking hot potatoes, jars of warm tea and coffee, and bottles of milk, and cold punch. As we sat thus, it was a fit scene for a painter; yet no painter could do justice to the joyousness of the picture—the glimpses of mirth, one laugh the echo of the other."

The following are also pleasing reminiscences of the great Irishman:—

"It was now beautiful autumnal weather, and our merry party at Darrynane profited by it. There were pleasant morning excursions, and gay evening re-unions, when all seemed to wish to enjoy themselves doubly, as if to honour in welcoming home the liberated chieftain. How full of enjoyment were those days, and what pleasant memories I shall ever retain of them! Dear, delightful Darrynane! how changed will be your aspect a few years hence, and how many, like me, will wish they could re-animate that happy home, so blessed now in the tendernesses of its family meeting! How much Mr. O'Connell enjoyed his freedom!—yet in the midst of the gayest moods, and even infectiously gay they sometimes were, a train of saddening thought would at times cloud his cheerful brow, and you could see that there were anxious fears around his heart, and that his downward way had indeed begun.

"A few mornings after my arrival at Darrynane, a dark rainy day, we had a small 'monster meeting' in the drawing-room, the majority being noisy children, and among the most playful and merriest was our host himself. That he dearly loved children, was shown in the beaming tenderness of his smile as he talked to them. I was now reminded of the deep impression he made on my childish affections many years ago; now he fondled one child, and now another, and the laughter was long and loud. Near him, on the table, lay a volume of Moore's 'Irish Melodies.' The gay smile was gone as he took it up, and, opening it, read, with a pathos I can never forget, those beautiful lines—

'Oh, blame not the bard,'

his voice taking a deep full tone as he read—

'But though glory be gone,
And though hope fade away,
Thy name, loved Erin,
Shall live in his songs,
Not e'en in the hour
When his heart is most gay,
Will he lose the remembrance
Of thee and thy wrongs!'

"Any one who has been staying in a pleasant country-house, with a large family-party, where the occasional strangers soon feel themselves quite at home, knows what an agreeable episode are 'private theatricals.' The play, 'She Stoops to Conquer,' had been announced for immediate performance, and when the expected day of its appearance came, the house seemed all in confusion, and a placard announced, on the door of the large dining-room, that 'there was no entrance except on business with the stage-manager,' it was being fitted up as a theatre. Mr. O'Connell and many of his guests made various ineffectual attempts to see the preparations—glimpses of theatrical paraphernalia, and remonstrances from the manager, were all the curious obtained.

"But the theatre opened, and the curtain rose in due time, and the prologue was very well spoken, and the play began. The *dramatis personæ* were mostly members of Mr. O'Connell's family; his son

John, as old Hardcastle, was admirable, and all knew their parts well, and acted very creditably. Mr. O'Connell seemed to enjoy the performance exceedingly, and as the curtain fell, the applause was 'long and loud.' And a very merry night we had, ending one of the pleasantest days in my recollections of the 'gay old times,' at Darrynane."

Considered as a private journal, the volume will doubtless be read by the author's family and friends with much interest.

NOTICES.

National Education. The Three Schemes Contrasted. By the Rev. Francis Close, A.M. Hatchards.

MR. CLOSE has already appeared on more than one occasion, as the public champion of the government scheme of education as now in operation. He thinks that in the present divided state of public opinion, it is hopeless to look for any comprehensive national system of education which will satisfy all parties. High churchmen insist upon ecclesiastical, as well as religious training being made imperative; Voluntaries and Dissenters object to any government interference with education; secularists demand a system which shall exclude all religious instruction from the public schools. Whilst theorists are wrangling about the optimism of the question, and party disputes are running high, Mr. Close, and reasonable and wise men of all creeds and parties, are availing themselves of the assistance now afforded by the government under the educational grants of the Privy Council. In the present pamphlet, Mr. Close states the principles of the government scheme, by which public aid is given, under certain conditions, to every local educational effort, and he contrasts this plan with that proposed by the secular association, headed by Mr. Cobden and his party, and that contained in the Manchester and Salford Bill, introduced in last session of parliament. His conclusion is, that at present, "it is the duty of all friends of education to be diligent and devoted in working out that scheme which we have," and that "the only true wisdom is to impart to it fresh impulse by enlarged pecuniary grants, and by increased discretionary power to the executive." Mr. Close has attended much to the subject, and the results of his experience, as set forth in this able and temperate pamphlet, deserve the consideration of all interested in the question of national education.

Post Office London Directory for 1853.

Kelly & Co.

THIS is the fifty-fourth annual publication of a work the most important to metropolitan readers of all that pass under our review. Foreigners and strangers from the provinces are often amazed when they see the 'Post Office London Directory' for the first time. With the exception, perhaps, of the daily issue of 'The Times' newspaper, there is no published index of the national greatness equal to this volume. While the bulk of its pages exhibit the statistics of London, much of the book relates to the common interests of the whole empire. For not only is this, as the title-page represents, a trade directory, and a street directory, but also it is a commercial directory, a law directory, a court directory, a parliamentary, postal, conveyance, banking, and we know not how many more kinds of directory may be comprised in the three &c. &c. &c. which follow the enumerated contents. There may have been complaints of inaccuracies at times, a thing not to be wondered at in a work of such gigantic dimensions; but even in a literary point of view the errors are marvellously few in proportion to the amount of matter, and in each successive publication the number is diminished by the increased care bestowed on the preparation of the work. We have tried the new volume in various ways, and have proved its general accuracy, nor will it be easy to find any topic on which it professes to treat on which its information may not be relied on. The alterations and amendments have been continued down to the latest period before the work had to be issued. These alterations

are not only in public lists, such as the appointments consequent on the death of the Duke of Wellington, but we notice changes in the commercial and street directory of very recent occurrence, which give evidence of the activity and care with which the work has been prepared. The present publication will place Kelly's 'Post Office Directory' higher than before, as a book of reference, in the estimation and confidence of business men.

The Martyrs, Heroes, and Bards of the Scottish Covenant. By George Gilfillan, M.A. Cockshaw. THIS little volume does not present the fruits of any original research, but contains a popular and graphic statement compiled from the works of historians. Since the retirement of Professor Wilson there is no Scottish author who displays so much of the profound genius of his country as George Gilfillan, and in the story of the Covenanters he has a subject well adapted to his powers. The book is written with all the peculiarity of the author's style, full of noble thoughts and generous sentiments, with occasional eccentricities both of opinion and of expression. The opening chapter, which contains a disquisition on the principles on which history should be written, is somewhat out of place, as is the concluding narrative of the 'Massacre of Glencoe.' The effect of the book would have been greater without introducing subjects which mar the unity of its design. But there is much truth in the remarks on these subjects, which many readers will be pleased with, although critical taste may object to their forming part of the work. The events of the most stirring period of Scottish history since the Reformation are narrated with graphic power, and in a tone of unsectarian and liberal feeling which has not always been manifested by writers on subjects involving wide difference both of political and religious opinion. The book forms one of the volumes of the 'Library for the Times,' and is a valuable contribution to that series of popular works.

The Family Bible newly Opened, with Uncle Goodwin's Account of it. By Jefferys Taylor. Grant and Griffith.

THE author of this work is one of a family who have done much for the literature of education and of religion. Many are the pleasant and wholesome lessons, both in prose and verse, for which youthful readers have been indebted to the Taylors of Ongar. The present volume commences in the form of a story about the finding of an ancient Bible in a family chest, an event which Dr. Goodwin, the parish clergyman, makes the occasion of a series of lectures to his household and to the villagers, on the chief subjects of the Sacred Scriptures, and on the history of the English versions of the Bible. The book is written in a style likely to prove attractive to young people, and conveys striking lessons of virtue and of piety. A prefatory note by the distinguished brother of the author, Isaac Taylor, mentions, that while the book is passing through the press, the writer has been seized by a bodily disease, 'such as precludes the hope of his ever resuming his pen.' This affecting condition of one who has sincerely laboured for the highest welfare of the young, may give additional claims for the present volume to the attention of those for whom it is intended.

SUMMARY.

THE last two numbers of the 'Travellers' Library' are 'books for the times,' prepared to meet the unabated demands of the public for information about the gold regions. In the *Australian Colonies, their Origin and Present Condition*, by William Hughes, F.R.G.S., a succinct and ably-written description of these colonies is given by a man of science, in which an authentic account is given, not only of the mineral wealth, but of the geography, climate, productions, and general resources of a country which so many of our countrymen are making their home. In the first part a historical and descriptive account of the country is given, with notices of its natural history, geology, botany, and its original inhabitants. Then the occupations of the several

classes of colonists are described, agricultural, mining, or commercial, with a statement of the condition and employment of the convict population. The most recent intelligence is presented of the state and prospects of the gold-searching community. Emigrants of all classes will find in these volumes much valuable and trustworthy information.

To the 'Anecdotes of Animals,' by Mrs. Lee, formerly Mrs. Bowditch, a companion volume is now added by the same agreeable writer, *Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Birds, Reptiles, and Fishes*. Like its predecessor, this volume is full of curious anecdotes of animal life, narrated with much liveliness and spirit. A better book could not be put into the hands of young people, whether for present entertainment, or with the design of awakening desire for further study of natural history. In the part of the book on reptiles, many remarkable anecdotes are collected, which will be read with additional interest for the attention lately directed to the subject from the fatal accident to the keeper at the Zoological Gardens. Another little work, by Mrs. Lee, adapted for juvenile readers, is entitled *Sayings and Doings of Animals*, in which instruction is conveyed by the medium of fables founded on the instincts and habits of animals. Both works contain clever and well-executed illustrations.

Oriental students and scholars will find a curious treatise translated from the Chinese, with notes, by William Raymond Gingell, interpreter to H. M. Consulate at Foo Chow Foo, *The Ceremonial Usages of the Chinese*, B.C. 1121, as prescribed in the "institutes of the Chow dynasty strung as pearls." The preface to the book, written by the author's native teacher, is a characteristic specimen of Chinese scholarship, but displaying more good sense than most of his countrymen exhibit in their style. The work itself is interesting as a picture of national character and usages.

In Arnold's series of school-books, the first volume of an excellent edition of the *Works of Cornelius Tacitus*, with the explanations of Dr. Karl Nipperdey, the best editor of the works of Cornelius Nepos, appears, the translation of the German commentary being by the Rev. Henry Browne, chaplain to the Bishop of Chichester. This volume contains the first six books of the *Annals*. The notes are very valuable, and this edition is a useful contribution to our English school literature. At Dublin, an edition is issued of *Cicero de Senectute*, with critical and philological notes by Henry Alan, who has already edited with ability several of the Latin classics.

A treatise on the *Contamination of Water by the Poison of Lead, and the Effects on the Human Body*, by James Bower Harrison, surgeon, contains matter of importance not only to medical readers, but to builders, architects, and those who provide for the supply of water for domestic uses. The effects of the external application of lead injuriously, as to painters and others, is also fully stated. Mr. Harrison has written a useful treatise on an important subject.

The sketch of the life and character of the Duke of Wellington, which appeared originally in the *Journal des Débats*, by John Lemoinne, has been re-written in English by the author, and published under the title of *Wellington from a French point of View*. It is one of the best notices which have appeared on the subject, and does credit to the feeling as well as the talent of the writer.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Aguilar's (G.) *Women of Israel*, 2 vols, 12mo, cloth, 12s.
Ahn's *Italian Grammar*, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
Alford's (Rev. H.) *Greek Testament*, Vol. 2, 8vo, £1 4s.
Armstrong's *Introduction to English Composition*, 2s.
Arnold's *School Classics, Tacitus, Part 1*, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Art of Brewing, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
Barber's *Dorp and the Veld; or, Six Months in Natal*, 6s.
Baylee's (J. T.) *Statistics and Facts*, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Bernays's *Household Chemistry*, new edition, 4s. 6d.
Bickersteth's (Rev. E.) *Guide to the Prophecies*, 12mo, 5s.
Bingley's *Stories*, 2 vols. in 1, 3 vols., square, each 4s. 6d.
Bonar's *Morning of Joy*, new edition, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
Bowen's *Pictorial Sketch Book of Pennsylvania*, 8vo, 12s.
Burslem (W. M.) on *Pulmonary Consumption*, 8vo, 5s.

Carpmael's (W.) Law of Patents for Inventions, 8vo, 2s. 6d.
 Causland's Time of the Gentiles, foolscap, cloth, 5s. 6d.
 Chambers's Library, 20 vols. in 10, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d. each.
 Papers, 12 vols. in 6, 18s.
 Chateline's (M. de) Cottage Life Illustrated, 4to, cloth, 6s.
 Chavasse's (P. H.) Advice to a Mother, 4th ed., 12mo, 6s.
 Cicero's Cato Major, Notes by Alan, 12mo, 1s. 6d.
 Coleman's (S.) Ancient Christianity Exemplified, cl., 14s.
 Colenso's (Rev. J. W.) Elements of Algebra, 18mo, 1s. 6d.
 Conybeare and Howson's Life of St. Paul, 2 vols., £2 8s.
 Vol. 2, 4to, £1.
 Vol. 2, Part 2, 4to, 11s.
 Cottage Gardener, Vol. 8, imp. 8vo, cloth, 7s.
 Cumming's Canticles Pointed for Chanting, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Curiosities of the Microscope, 16mo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Davy's Cattle Register Book, square, cloth, 3s.
 Dream Chintz, 2s. 6d.
 Eastman's Romance of Indian Life, 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
 Funny Leaves, 4to, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Gray's (W.) Treatise on Rural Architecture, cloth, £1 1s.
 Harrison (J. B.) on Contamination of Water, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
 Harvey's Pathway of the Fawn, square, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Hazlitt's Men and Manners, morocco, 6s.
 Hillier's Narrative of Attempted Escape of Chas. I. 10s. 6d.
 Heighway's Leila Ada, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Hood's (E. P.) Age and its Architects, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Hammers and Ploughshares, 12mo, 1s. 6d.
 Johnson's (Rev. W. A. B.) Memoirs, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Jowett's (Rev. W.) Time and Temper, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Lee's Anecdotes of Birds, square, cloth, 6s.
 Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, 12mo, 5s.
 Mackintosh's Elements of English Grammar, 12mo, 2s.
 Monachologia, by a Naturalist, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Morris's History of British Birds, Vol. 2, royal 8vo, 17s.
 Paul's Dashes of American Humour, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Pierre; or, the Ambiguities, by H. Melville, 8s. 6d.
 Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Persons, 3 vols., £3 3s.
 half morocco, £3 10s.
 Pridham's Church of England Candidly Examined, 10s. 6d.
 Proper Condition of Horses, by H. Hieover, 12mo, 5s.
 Reid's System of Modern Geography, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Rhode's (Rev. H. J.) Handbook to Convocation, 2s. 6d.
 Scrymgeour's Readings in Science and Literature, 3s. 6d.
 Shakspeare's Plays, imperial 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
 Simms's Landscape Sketches from Nature, 2s. 6d.
 Solomon's Song Compared with Parts of Scripture, 3s. 6d.
 Story of Reynard the Fox, a New Version, 4to, 10s. 6d.
 Wardlaw on Miracles, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
 Whittaker's Practice under Codes of New York, £1 1s.
 Wide Wide World, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Wonderful Things, Vol. 1, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Young's Teacher's Manual for Infant Schools, 12mo, 3s.

DR. MANTELL.

ON Wednesday evening last, at the age of about 63 or 64, died the renowned geologist, Gideon Algernon Mantell, LL.D., F.R.S. He had been a severe sufferer for some time past, but his energy and spirits were such, that it was impossible not to forget this after being a few minutes in his company. Dr. Mantell imbibed, at an early period of his life, a taste for natural history pursuits, and having fixed his residence as a medical practitioner at Lewes, was led to devote himself, with great natural enthusiasm, to the investigation of the fossils of the Chalk and of the Wealden of Sussex. Little attention had been excited among geologists to the wonderful organic remains of this district, and to a mind of his penetration and sagacity a rich field presented itself for observation. In 1812-15, Dr. Mantell commenced forming, at Lewes, the magnificent collection of 1300 specimens of fossil bones, which is now in the British Museum; and in 1822 appeared his 'Fossils of the South Downs,' a large quarto work, with forty plates, engraved by Mrs. Mantell, from drawings by the author. Another work was published by him about the same time, entitled 'The Fossils of Tilgate Forest,' and compared with the geological literature of the period in which they were written, they are meritorious productions. In 1825 Dr. Mantell was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and he has contributed some important papers to its 'Philosophical Transactions.' For his memoir 'On the Iguanodon' he had the honour, in 1849, to receive the Royal Medal. He was also an active member of the Geological Society, and in 1835 was presented with the Wollaston Medal and Fund, in consideration of his discoveries in fossil comparative anatomy generally. From Lewes Dr. Mantell removed about this period to Brighton, and his collection being materially added to, was purchased by the Trustees of the British Museum for the sum of £5000. Upon this he removed to the neighbourhood of London. Dr. Mantell took great delight in imparting to others a knowledge of his favourite science; he was

fluent and eloquent in speech, full of poetry, and extremely agreeable in manners to all who manifested an admiration of his genius. He now turned his attention to the more popular and attractive works for which his name will be chiefly remembered, 'Wonders of Geology,' 'Medals of Creation,' 'Geological Excursions round the Isle of Wight,' and an enlarged edition of his 'Thoughts on a Pebble,' all of which are profusely illustrated, and have passed through several editions. His latest work was a handbook to the organic remains in the British Museum, entitled 'Petrifactions and their Teachings.' To these may be added 'Thoughts on Animalcules,' and 'A Pictorial Atlas of Fossil Remains,' selected from Parkinson's and Arlis's palaeontological illustrations; and among his early productions, a handsome quarto narrative, with portraits, of the 'Visit of William IV. and Queen Adelaide to the Ancient Borough of Lewes,' which included some original poetry. Dr. Mantell, as we have already hinted, was a most attractive lecturer, filling the listening ears of his audience with seductive imagery, and leaving them in amazement with his exhaustless catalogue of wonders. This, indeed, was his failing in a philosophic point of view. He yielded with reluctance to the revelation of a truth when it dispossessed him of a pretty illustration; and long after the natural history of the Ammonite was demonstrated by that of its living congeners, it continued in the title-page of his 'Pebble' to

"Spread the thin oar, and catch the driving gale."

To touch lightly on other weaknesses of this enthusiastic diffuser of geological knowledge, too prominent and too generally understood to be passed over by the impartial biographer, we must also notice that a consciousness of the intrinsic want of exact scientific, and especially anatomical, knowledge, which compelled him privately to have recourse to those possessing it, for the explanation of the facts or fossils his energy brought to light, produced extreme susceptibility of any doubt expressed of the accuracy or originality of that which he advanced; and in his popular summaries of geological facts, he was too apt to forget the sources of information which he had acknowledged in his original memoirs. The history of the fossil reptile for the discovery of which Dr. Mantell's name will be longest recollected in science, is a remarkable instance of this. Few who have become acquainted with the Iguanodon, by the perusal of the 'Medals of Creation,' would suspect that to Cuvier we owe the first recognition of its reptilian character, to Clift the first perception of the resemblance of its teeth to those of the Iguana, to Conybeare its name, and to Owen its true affinities among reptiles, and the correction of the error respecting its bulk and alleged horn, which had arisen out of an undue enthusiasm touching its marvellous nature. He who is daily employed in the original labours on which scientific generalizations are based, estimates the importance of the facts on which he rests the higher truths, more accurately than those who are more distant from the source. An overweening estimate of the value of the materials on which Dr. Mantell laboured, rendered him peculiarly sensitive to any supposed oversight of their importance, and imparted a tone to some of his later popular productions, which, on this very Saturday twelvemonth (*L. G.* 1851, p. 769) we had occasion, in common with many friends of palaeontological science, to deplore. Dr. Mantell has, however, done much after his kind for the advancement of geology, and certainly more than any man living to bring it into attractive and popular notice.

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

8th November, 1852.

I THANK Mr. Roach Smith for his expressions of good will towards myself, but I cannot concur in his view of the present question in the Society of Antiquaries. We have in that Society the highest subscription of any literary society in London,—

four guineas per annum. That has not always been our subscription. It was formerly two guineas; from which sum it was raised to four. Whilst it was two guineas, the Society was at its best. Its publications were highly valuable, and its numbers gradually increased from 400 to 800. Immediately the subscription was raised, the numerical strength began to fall, and it has gone gradually down from 800 to 473. In five years anterior to the raising of the subscription, the admissions numbered 198; in the next five years they were 129; in the following five years they were 94. In the twenty years anterior to the increase, they numbered 705. In the twenty years immediately succeeding the change they fell to 484; in the next twenty years to 414. Such have been the numerical results of the increase of payment.

The admission-fee was raised at the same time as the subscription, from five guineas to eight guineas, and the comparative results of high and low subscriptions have been as follows:—During the five years anterior to the increase, we received in admission fees 1039*l.* 10*s.* During the last five years we received 638*l.* 8*s.* Within the same periods we received in subscriptions of new members 415*l.* 16*s.*, and 319*l.* 4*s.* So that, upon a five years' comparison of our present state with that before the increase, there are balances of 401*l.* 2*s.* and 96*l.* 12*s.* per annum in favour of the lower payments. Such have been the pecuniary results.

Equally adverse has been the effect upon the status of the Society. In the last list before the increase, there were 93 peers; there are now 33. In the same list were 11 bishops; there are now 5. There were then 141 clergymen; there are now 75,—whilst in the Archaeological Institute, with a subscription of one guinea, there are 257. The effect upon the literature and practical usefulness of the Society has been equally fatal. The Society cannot exist without literary aid. Eight guineas admission fee, and four guineas subscription, are payments little suited to the ordinary capabilities of literary men; and the result has been, as you have learnt from Mr. Smith, that the Society has decreased in reputation and usefulness at the same time that its numerical strength has declined. All these results have ensued at a time when the world at large has been giving more and more attention to antiquarian subjects. Whilst antiquaries have been starting up on all sides of us out of doors, the Society of Antiquaries has been gradually contracting itself within a continually decreasing space.

With this state of things staring me, as treasurer, in the face—gradually decreasing numbers, gradually decreasing means, gradually decreasing literary power and usefulness, I proposed a return to the old subscription. "Recruit your numbers and reinvigorate your spirit," was my argument, "by opening your doors to the multitude of good and useful men whom your high payments exclude." This view was sanctioned by the council, and was proposed for adoption by the president and council to the Society. An opposition was raised—I will not pause to comment upon it—but we went to the ballot, and the proposal to revert to the old subscription was carried by a majority of 55 to 41. The minority then refused to be bound by the majority. Taking advantage of the letter of an absurd bond, they instantly proposed to rescind the alteration, without trial, and without any reason assigned. Some have even gone the length of an indiscriminate blackballing, in order to insure the failure of the measure.

Mr. Roach Smith's paper in your last number is designed to help on the proposal to rescind, by showing that I have argued the case "only as a financier." Is it not a case for "a financier?" I seek to establish a great financial point—viz., that a two-guinea subscription has produced, and will produce, a larger income than one at four guineas. In what other way than "as a financier" ought I to have argued such a point? I do not say that other things may not have helped the Society on its downward course; but I have shown one thing, one great thing, the very greatest thing; remove that, and then we will proceed to consider anything else you like. Mr. Smith does not attempt

to show that I am wrong. He does not meet my case in any way whatever. He flies off to a variety of other theoretical points, which he says I should have considered, but which really have nothing to do with the one clear point which I have made out. For example, he would have me go into a discussion about the influence upon our Society of the Royal Society of Literature and the Archaeological Society. Whatever that influence may have been—and Mr. Smith will find in my letter to Lord Mahon that I did not overlook it—what can it have to do with the matter now in question? I have shown that the raising our subscription was followed by an immediate decrease in the number of admissions. The Societies alluded to did not come into existence until many years afterwards.

Besides, sir, what sort of argument is it, that because we have now a host of competing societies, we ought therefore to maintain a subscription four times as high as the majority of the societies alluded to? Mr. Smith fears that the society will be crippled by the amount of income it must for the moment relinquish. Before he entertains such fears, he should rebut my proof that the smaller payments produce the larger receipts. I have shown that with an addition of ten members we can do all that we now do upon the decreased payments. There are twenty-one waiting to be elected. Mr. Smith also is one of those who fear for the respectability of the Society under a two-guinea subscription. I have shown you what was its *status*, when that was its subscription. And, besides, if there is to be a large accession of members, which this objection supposes, what becomes of the other objection of want of means? We cannot be both ruined in purse and overpowered by new members. It will be our own fault if we are either.

In some remarks which I am just about to send out to the Fellows of the Society, and of which I take the liberty to forward you a copy of the proof sheets, I have illustrated this mode of dealing with the subject in the following manner. "A man is in good health; he is bitten by a cobra; he becomes torpid, sinks, and within a few hours dies. What occasioned his death? I answer, the bite of the cobra." "That," say my objecting friends, "is but a part of the subject. You should consider that he was in a state of excitement from intoxication, that his conduct was foolish and reckless, that the people about him were guilty of great mismanagement, that he had in his possession an Indian specific against such bites and did not use it." True—true—quite true—and yet, after all, he died from the bite of the cobra. In the case of the Society of Antiquaries, I have proved that the large subscription is the bite of the cobra. Counteract that, and we may do anything. Let it take its course, and the result is certain. But I have better hopes. Our proposal is that of improvement instead of stagnation, of life instead of death, and will, I doubt not, again receive the approval of the Fellows at their meeting on the 25th inst.

JOHN BRUCE.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE increased emphasis with which allusion has been made in the Queen's speech to the advancement of the fine arts and of practical science, and the positive announcement that a comprehensive scheme will be laid before Parliament for the promotion of these objects, gives us strong hopes that the Government is alive to the necessitous reforms and alterations in our science and art institutions, to which we have from time to time called attention. The scheme must not, however, be limited to the erection of a National Gallery and the foundation of an Industrial College of Arts and Manufactures. The affairs of the British Museum, as we have already shown (*ante*, p. 739), are in a state calling for the most prompt and energetic consideration, and we trust something will be done towards furnishing a meeting-house for the Learned Societies.

The Royal Asiatic Society has introduced an arrangement which we should be glad to see

adopted, where practicable, in similar bodies. In addition to the ordinary meetings of the Society, six evening meetings will be held for the delivery of a course of lectures, at which each member is invited to bring a lady. The lectures for the session, commencing in January, are as follows:—Professor Wilson on 'The Vedas'; Mr. Greenough on 'The Physical and Geological Structure of India'; Dr. Latham on 'The Classification and Distribution of the Languages of the Trans-Gangetic Peninsula'; Professor Royle on 'Indian Products known to the Ancients'; Mr. Fergusson on 'The Cultivation and Manufacture of Indigo'; and Dr. Bird on 'The Empire of the Seleucides, and its Influence on the Manners and Customs of the East.' Such a course of lectures at the Geological, Linnean, Antiquarian, and other Societies, would attract much interest, and be the means of adding substantially to the Fellowship,—and to the funds.

The Council of the Royal Society has decided to award the Copley Medal to Baron Humboldt, for his eminent services in Natural Science, the Rumford Medal to Professor Stokes, for his paper 'On the Refrangibility of Light,' and the two Royal Medals, one to Mr. J. T. Joule, for his papers 'On Physical Science,' and the other to Mr. T. H. Huxley, for his paper 'On the Medusæ.'

In our article on the British Museum, (*ante*, p. 740,) we stated that the contemplated departments of art and science in the Crystal Palace were being prepared with an amount of activity and research that should make our Museum *savans* look to their laurels. We were scarcely prepared, however, for the welcome announcement that, with the permission of the Prime Minister, it has been determined to remove to Sydenham the far-famed obelisk, known as Cleopatra's Needle, which has been so long waiting in Alexandria for conveyance to this country. The Government very properly reserve to themselves the power of claiming it on payment of all expenses incurred in the removal, and we yet hope to see it in its proper place, along with the rest of the ancient Egyptian, Lycian, and Nineveh sculptures,—in the Court of Antiquities of the New National Gallery.

The brightest genius of modern Italy—Vincenzo Gioberti—has just died at Paris, whilst yet in his prime. Not only was he a distinguished scholar, but a brilliant writer, a profound philosopher, an able statesman, and a fervent patriot. His great literary works are 'Introduzione allo Studio della Filosofia,' in which he eloquently demonstrates that all true philosophy must be founded on religion; a treatise 'Del Bello'; and the 'Primato civile e morale degli Italiani,' showing the union of civilization with religion, and the necessity of the subjection of both to the papacy. He was a priest, and an enthusiastic supporter of the Catholic faith. His political writings, and his services as prime-minister of Sardinia, increased the admiration which the great bulk of his countrymen always felt for his literary genius and learning; but with this we have no concern.

The Ministry of General Police of Paris has announced that its measures are completed for receiving the dépôt, and for registering, all English books, engravings, lithographs, and musical compositions, for which it is desired to secure the protection of the French laws in conformity with the treaty of November last. English authors and publishers have already begun to derive from that treaty the advantages it was expected to produce. Not only has the reprinting of English works entirely ceased, but several booksellers, relieved from the fear of being undersold by the republications, have commenced the importation, on a somewhat large scale, of English works of merit. One firm in particular, instead of announcing reprints for sale, now advertises regularly every week the "éditions originales de Londres." And the sale of these original editions, we learn, is not only better than was expected, but bids fair to become very extensive indeed. The knowledge of the English language is rapidly spreading amongst the French, and is likely, at no distant day, to be as familiar to all well-educated Frenchmen as the French language has for years been to educated Englishmen.

The Keeper of the Printed Books of the British Museum met with a richly-merited rebuke a few days since at the Bow Street Police Office. Having summoned Mr. H. G. Bohn, the publisher, for omitting to send a book among the many hundreds that he is in the habit of sending, the bibliopole proved that he had been to the Museum Reading Room, and failed in his application for books that he had himself delivered long before,—

"Mr. Bohn said, it was well known that he sent his books to the Museum, yet it constantly happened that his friends could not find them. Mr. Panizzi (very warmly)—'That's untrue, and you know it.' Mr. Bohn—'I know that I have applied for one of my books myself, without being able to get it.' Mr. Panizzi—'What book? Name any book.' Mr. Bohn—'Why, "Schiller's Works," for one.'

We do hope that one of the first items of the Government 'comprehensive scheme' will be the consideration of this oppressive system.

We observe in the Scotch papers an advertisement disclosing a curious plan for the encouragement of native genius. An "eminent publisher" announces a money-prize for the best piece of "poetry for the new year," the length of the poem not to exceed twenty-four lines, to be the property of the publisher, and to be sold in packets at a shilling the hundred. The form of the idea is fair, but the method of deciding the merit of the poetry is more ingenious than ingenuous on the part of the publishers and printers, who announce that "the hymn having the largest sale before 1st February will be entitled to the prize."

There is now published monthly, at Paris, a periodical of sixty-four pages, containing, in 128 columns, close print, translations of English novels and romances which have not hitherto been published in France. It is called 'Galerie des Romans Anglais,' and is destined by its conductors 'to take its place by the side of the works of Walter Scott and Cooper.' English authors and publishers are of course aware that the recent literary treaty with France enables them, if so disposed, to prevent any translation without their express consent, and, if they choose to exact it, without payment made to them.

We have to notice two fresh additions to the Goethe literature of Germany—viz., 'Charlotte von Kalb, and her relations to Schiller and Goethe' (Berlin, W. Hertz), and Goethe's 'Sprache und ihr Geist,' by Dr. Lehman, head master of the Gymnasium at Marienwerder (Berlin, Allgemeine Deutsche Verlags Anstalt). The former is an extract from the private memoirs of Frau von Kalb, whose friendship for the two great poets is so well known. The last-named work is a digest of the peculiarities of Goethe's style, which the author seems to recommend. Either of the two books may possibly be of interest to the friends of German literature in this country.

Some important decisions have lately been made by the Committee of Council on Education, in reference to grants to Ragged Schools. Although not entitled to grants of money on the same conditions required for regular district schools, other forms of aid are offered. Boys having certificates of continued good character, and of aptitude to teach, may be apprenticed to the master on the ordinary terms. Besides the usual grants for books and maps, money will be given for hire of rooms or workshops to the amount of half the rent, and for the purchase of tools and implements of labour. In certain cases where master workmen are engaged for the industrial training of the boys, an allowance not exceeding ten shillings a year for each pupil will be made. As far as they go, these encouragements by Government to Ragged Schools are highly commendable.

The subject of the Norrisian Prize Essay at Oxford for 1853 is announced, "The Gospels could not have originated in any or all of those forms of religious opinion which prevailed among the Jews at the time of our Saviour's incarnation." We are glad to observe, from the subjects of the various university prize themes of late years, that judicious care is taken to direct the attention of the students to questions that have been raised by the rationalists, and other opponents of orthodox Christianity.

The French are continuing, with great industry,

experiments for fixing colours on daguerreotype designs; M. Niepce de Saint Victor, in particular, is very active therein. He showed to the Academy of Sciences, on Monday, that he can easily produce coloured designs, but cannot yet prevent the colour from fading away. He stated a curious fact—namely, that the colours become more rapidly effaced by the light in the mornings than in the afternoons. In connexion with this subject, it may be mentioned that there have been presented to the Academy a number of lithographic designs on sheets of gutta percha, pressed as thin as ordinary letter paper.

Mr. George Buchanan, one of the most eminent civil engineers in North Britain, died on the 30th ult., after a short illness. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and formerly President of the Royal Scottish Academy of Arts. Mr. Buchanan was brother-in-law to Professor Faraday.

It is worth noting, as an incident in the literature of the daily press, that a number of 'The Times' this week contained above eighty separate advertisements connected with Wellington, three-fourths of these relating to seats for the funeral procession, the remainder referring chiefly to autographs, letters, and portraits of the great Duke.

From Paris we learn that there is a design of inaugurating, as the phrase goes, the coming empire, by granting pensions, varying from £400 to £120, to all literary men of note who may be willing to give in what the French call their "adhesion" to the government.

A terrible hurricane which recently visited Athens, blew down one of the noble marble columns of the Temple of Jupiter Olympius, and two columns of the Temple of Victory, near the Acropolis.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Nov. 10th.—T. J. Pettigrew, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Seventeen associates elected during the recess were announced, among which were the Earl of Scarborough, Lord A. Edwin Hill, H. Barron, M.P., G. E. Harcourt Vernon, M.P., J. Manners Sutton, M.P., Colonel Wildman of Newstead Abbey, Rich. Milward of Thurgarton Priory, &c. &c. Numerous presents of antiquities and books were laid upon the table from the Society of Antiquaries, the Societies of Antiquaries and Archaeologists of Normandy, Caen, Picardy, Liverpool, Bury, &c., the Smithsonian Institution, Numismatic Society, &c. Mr. Planché laid before the meeting a singular helmet of the time of Edward III., with the camail or tippet attached, the only instance of the kind he had ever met with; and also a trophy helmet of the time of Henry VII., both belonging to Mr. Samuel Pratt. Mr. Syer Cuming read a paper on "Ring and Chain Armour," in which he traced their history from the earliest periods, and illustrated his paper by some very interesting specimens belonging to the different periods. Mr. Cuming referred Mr. Pratt's specimen, exhibited by Mr. Planché, to the close of the reign of Edward II., or to the commencement of Edward III. Each ring of the original camail of interlaced chain-mail consists of a simple circlet of stout iron wire five-eighths of an inch in diameter, the ends being brought together without riveting. Careful drawings of this helmet have been taken to accompany an account of it, which will appear in the journal of the Association. Mr. Charles Bridger exhibited a drawing of a very curious brass of a serjeant-at-arms of the time of Henry V. It is in Wandsworth church, and is supposed to have been one of the Gainsford family, who held considerable property in Surrey. The serjeant is represented with the mace by his side, and it presents a very interesting specimen. Mr. Clarke, of Easton, exhibited a coin found at Ipswich, having on it Johannes Dei Gra., &c., also another found at Manningtree, Henric. D. G. Rex v. Angl. Mr. L. Jewitt exhibited a circular silver fibula having IESVS NAZARENVS inscribed on it. Mr. J. also exhibited three Celtic coins, two of

copper and one of gold, found at Mount Baton, Plymouth. Mr. Ashpital exhibited a curious bronze fibula, circular, and having six raised triangular points, found at Maidstone. Mr. F. J. Baigent sent a beautifully-executed drawing taken from a piece of glass in Aldermaston church, in Berkshire. It represented the annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. The drawing was accompanied by an interesting notice of the church, its painted windows, and its monuments. Mr. Newton exhibited a bronze socket, lately dug up at Hitchin, with the following inscription—*+ Hæc (scil. crux) tute indirigat iter*. It appears to have belonged to a pilgrim's staff. Mr. Black exhibited a very fine and perfect specimen of the "Bellarmine" jug or bottle, found at the depth of 16 feet, in the passage leading from Leman-street to Mill-yard, Goodman's-fields, in October last. Mr. Briggs forwarded to the Association several urns, patera, patina, &c., found near Dover, and presented to the Society by Mr. Orton, of St. Margaret's Bay. They were discovered by a labourer in grubbing up an old hedge near Gaston, about two miles from Dover, about four feet beneath the surface of the ground. Mr. Briggs states them to have been deposited in the following manner:—A hole had apparently been cut in the solid chalk just big enough to admit of one urn being placed within it, and which the urn just filled. The urns were in number about 18, all varying in shape and size, and always placed in pairs, each pair being situated 8 or 10 feet distant from each other, and each containing calcined bones. The saucer-shaped vessels also contained bones, one being turned on the top of another to cover in the bones. Mr. Lynch submitted some original letters from Pope Innocent XI., Louis XIV., and Lady Anna Vittoria Montecucoli, Countess of Almonde, the early and constant friend of Mary Beatrice of Modena, second wife of King James II. The letters, of which translations of three were read, are deeply interesting, relate to James II. and his family, and have been found in a volume from a library at Rome, now in Mr. Lynch's possession. The first letter is from Pope Innocent XI. to Louis XIV., in Latin, and conveys an approval of the cordial reception given by the French monarch to King James, on his retreat from England. The second is the reply of Louis XIV. to the Pope, written in French, and of which also there is an Italian version. The third letter is from the Countess of Montecucoli, written in Italian, and details an account of the various plans which were concocted for the flight of the queen, the modifications which circumstances occasioned, and the ultimate method adopted. These interesting historical documents will be printed by the Association. The Rev. Thos. Hugo presented to the Association some portions of Roman pottery, several with beautiful ornamentation, lately obtained from Ribchester; also a bronze ring from the same place, which, to some of the members, appeared to present a portion of a reliquary. The subject was referred for further examination, and to be considered and arranged with the examples lately presented to the Association by Lord De Tabley.

HORTICULTURAL.—Nov. 2nd.—C. Wentworth Dilke, Esq., in the Chair. Of Chrysanthemums invited for exhibition on this occasion, owing to the continued dulness of the weather, none but Pompons were produced. Specimens of these were shown by Mr. Ivory, Mr. E. G. Henderson, and Messrs. Chandler, and to the first-named a Knightian medal was awarded. Of Alpine Strawberries and Celery invited for exhibition the show was also poor. Of Strawberries there was only one dish, for which a Banksian medal was awarded to Mr. Chapman, gardener to J. B. Gregg, Esq. A Certificate of Merit was also awarded to the same exhibitor, for three heads of the Withington Red Celery. Twelve young plants of *Æschynanthus splendidus*, with clusters of brilliant red flowers, were exhibited by Messrs. Lacombe and Pince, of Exeter. Messrs. Weeks and Co. sent the following Orchids—*Maxillaria picta*, *Zygopetalum crinitum*, and

the Bird's-bill Oncid (*O. ornithorhyncum*); and Messrs. Veitch produced *Calanthe vestita*, a lovely late-flowering species, with large white blossoms, having a red eye; a charming example of *Vanda cærulea*, which is found to be better coloured when grown on the "cool system," and a plant named *Cinchona condaminea*. A Banksian medal was awarded for the two first-mentioned plants.—Some Pine-apples were shown. Mr. Dodds, gardener to Sir J. Cathcart, Bart., produced two beautifully-ripened Queens, each weighing 4 lbs. 6 ozs.; and Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland, at Trentham, had three fruit of the same sort, weighing respectively 4 lbs. 14 ozs., 4 lbs. 6 ozs., and 4 lbs. 6 ozs.—Grapes, both Muscat and West's St. Peter's, well grown, but very unripe, came from Mr. Martin, gardener to Sir H. Fleetwood, Bart., of Hill House, Wingfield, Berks.—A nice collection of Citrons was furnished by Mr. Pyper, gardener to E. St. Vincent Digby, Esq., of Mintern, Dorchester. It consisted of Mandarin Oranges, the produce of a second crop this year, the first being ripe in August last; some very large Madras Citrons, a sweet Lime, and fruit of the *Cédration de Salo*, a thick-rinded Citron, which is not eatable, but which is valuable for its perfume. A Banksian medal was awarded for these.—Three exhibitions of Peas were produced, all of them excellent. Mr. Burns, of Chevening, who it will be remembered gained the prize for Peas last time, sent Shilling's Grotto as good as before, showing that under favourable weather there is no difficulty in keeping up a supply of green Peas to a very late period.—Of Turnips, Mr. Chapman, gardener to J. B. Gregg, Esq., sent examples of the orange jelly variety. It was raised by Mr. Chivas, of Chester, and is certainly a Turnip of excellent quality, the skin being thin and smooth, and the pulp solid, sweet, and good.—From the Society's garden came plants of the *Veronica Andersonii*, a bright red-coloured hybrid *Begonia*, raised between *manicata* and *cinnabarina*, the little *Cochlearia acaulis*, four Pompon Chrysanthemums, some tree or Perpetual Carnations, which are very useful conservatory greenhouse plants at this season; fruit of the Duchesse d'Angoulême, Styrian, Beurré Diel, and Belmont Pears, and the following vegetables, viz., Walls' Early White Celery, which was better than any of the other sorts exhibited; Early Ulm Savoy, an excellent sort now pretty well known; two specimens of the Blue Winter Kohl Rabi, a good garden kind; Flanders and Lettuce-leaved Spinach, noticed at page 695; and ripe examples of a large Spanish Capsicum, a sort somewhat resembling a Tomato, and sweet and agreeable, being devoid of nearly all that pungency which is peculiar to other Capsicums.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 8th.—Sir Roderick Murchison, President, in the chair. Sir Henry Mervyn Vavasour, Bart.; the Rev. Sir Henry R. Dukinfield, Bart.; Captain John Erskine, R.N.; Dr. Packman, M.D.; John Dickinson, Esq., of Abbott's Hill; William Henderson; Richard Stonehewer Illingworth; and William Foster White, Esqs., were elected Fellows. The opening meeting of the season was devoted to the subject of arctic navigation. The first paper read was an account by Mr. Kennedy of the voyage of the *Prince Albert*, but as the particulars of this expedition have been already fully reported, we pass on to the consideration of a paper by Mr. Augustus Petermann, entitled, 'Sir John Franklin, the Navigableness of the Spitzbergen Sea, and the Whale Fisheries in the Arctic Regions.' The author, in first referring to his plan of search, brought to public notice some time ago (see *ante*, p. 509), said, that the assumption on which that plan was based—namely, that Franklin had passed up Wellington Channel, had recently been confirmed. He stated his reasons for asserting that Sir E. Belcher would require two or three years, at least, to obtain a satisfactory result. That expedition, together with McClure's and Inglefield's, only encompassed a portion of the region in which Franklin must have been arrested. The Asiatic side was still altogether

unprovided for in the search, and it was precisely that portion in which Franklin was to be looked for. This proposed route through the sea between Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla (which sea the author proposed to call Spitzbergen Sea, as it had no name, and as the former denomination had no definite locality), went directly upon that region, and he therefore wished again to draw public attention to his plan, by stating some facts on the authority exclusively of English authors still living. The author stated, that for the last two centuries the Spitzbergen Sea, which was by far the widest and the only oceanic opening into the Polar regions, had been considered by all writers as altogether impracticable, but he considered that assumption to be one of those popular delusions which were entirely groundless, and rested merely upon prejudice and imagination. The author then, from the direct evidence contained in the works of Scoresby, Beechey, Parry, and others, clearly made out his case, and adduced many facts, which went far to prove, that instead of that sea being locked up by an impenetrable ice-barrier, it was of all arctic regions probably the most favourable for navigation. He stated that Sir E. Parry, in little boats, had attained the latitude of 83° in that sea, in a voyage which only took six months from the River Thames and back, and only cost £9977, whereas, on the American side, where all the recent expeditions had been accumulated, it had cost nearly £100,000, many lives, many years and vessels, to attain the latitude of only 76°. Attention was next drawn to the fact of the existence of prodigious numbers of whales yet existing in the Polar basin, and that the Spitzbergen Sea, which was as near to the Shetland Islands as the Baltic was, would open out an immense wealth to the British whalers. And as to geographical discoveries, it was evident that, when Sir E. Parry had reached a latitude of 83°, under most trying circumstances, with the assistance of steam results would be gained, even in one season, which might eclipse in interest all other arctic discoveries yet made.

Captain Beechey stated, that the opening under consideration had been tried, that Sir E. Parry had found much ice, and that, if any expedition was to be sent up that way, it should go on the western side, and not on the eastern side, as Mr. Petermann proposed. Mr. Petermann stated, in reply, that since 1676, no attempt whatever had been made to proceed northward in the Spitzbergen Sea, and that the attempts previous to that date had been but slight, and could form no criterion for the present day; that Sir E. Parry himself, at the conclusion of his work, emphatically stated that "a ship might have sailed to the latitude of 82° almost without touching a piece of ice;" and he hoped that the geographers, the navigators, and the authorities of this country, would agree with him in considering it desirable and important that the great Spitzbergen Sea should be thoroughly explored, whether for the cause of humanity, of commerce, or of geographical science.

GERMAN ASSOCIATION, WIESBADEN.—Section IV. (Botany, Arboriculture, and Agriculture.) Professor Lehmann, of Hamburg, and Professor A. Braun, of Berlin, alternately in the chair. Dr. Schultz, bipont., read a paper 'On Compositæ, stating his reasons for changing the name of that order, and calling it *Cassiniaceæ*.' He exhibited a series of dried specimens, showing that in habit the *Compositæ* are related to nearly every natural family of the vegetable kingdom, and he proposed five new genera, *Erlangea*, *Heyfeldera*, *Kastnera*, *Willkommia*, and *Kralikia*. Professor Nees von Esenbeck protested against the innovation of calling a genus after a town (Erlangen). Professor Gumbel, of Landau, delivered a discourse on the growth of mosses, proving that any part of a moss could, under favourable circumstances, be transformed into an organ of fructification. Professor Hoffmann, of Giessen, dwelt upon the important influence of rivers upon the distribution of plants. His view coincided in the main with those advanced by Schouw and other phyto-geographers, and were supported by Mr. Wirtgen, of Coblenz, who also

proposed a plan for obtaining a more perfect knowledge of the flora of the Rhine, which led to the formation of an association for that purpose.

Dr. C. Schimper, of Schwetzingen, explained some of the laws governing the growth of plants. He directed attention to the great age of underwood, exhibiting specimens of maples, oaks, &c., which, though having a juvenile appearance, and being only from twelve to sixteen inches high, were more than thirty years old. Dr. Schimper also intended to deliver a discourse on some new doctrines—Toxomatic, Conomatic, Clinomatic, Amyntic, Lpantric, Rhizostolic, Herantic, Auxetic, Malaslic, and Deixiology—which, he stated, were as important as Phytotaxis and the system of Spirology, but the learned Professor indulged in so many digressions and took up so much time, that, although he was permitted to speak on several occasions, he never came to explain his views. Dr. Schimper is considered by the most eminent men of Germany to possess a far greater knowledge of plants than any other botanist. For a period of nine years he has led the life of a hermit in order to pursue the study of his favourite science undisturbed. The amount of observations he has accumulated is prodigious. Unfortunately, he has not the talent of making his views intelligible to others, or rather, in order to comprehend them, it is necessary to have a fund of information which but few naturalists possess. Dr. von Ettinghausen, of Vienna, read a paper 'On the Flora of the Tertiary Formation,' and exhibited a beautiful set of specimens, principally from Austria, agreeing with the forms at present growing in New Holland, and some of the islands in the Indian Archipelago. The most beautiful were the *Banksias*, *Pittosporums*, *Casuarinas*, and *Engelhardtias*. Professor Alexander Braun made known a new fossil vine (*Vitis tertia*, A. Braun), found at Salzhausen, together with *Carpolites gregarius*, *C. fulcatus*, and several others. The leaves and the grapes were in a fine state of preservation. Dr. Schacht, of Berlin, spoke on the propagation of German Orchideæ by buds, maintaining that there were three distinct modes by which the rhizomata of Orchideæ increased.

Professor Lehmann read a paper 'On the Development of Heat in the Flowers of the *Victoria regia*.' He showed the seeds of *Euryale ferox*, and stated that they were apt to lose their germinating power if taken out of the water; he also expressed his determination to write a monograph on the order *Nymphaeaceæ*, and begged botanists would favour him with specimens and remarks for that purpose. Professor A. Braun made physiological remarks on the fructification of *Algae*, and exhibited a new genus of *Alga* from Heligoland, closely allied to *Codium*, and called by him *Codium*. Mr. Wirtgen, of Coblenz, communicated his views on the genus *Mentha*. It appears that several botanists (A. Schmidt, Lanzius-Beninga, &c.) are at present engaged preparing monographs of that genus. Dr. Schultz, bipontinus of Deidersheim, delivered a discourse on *Cirsium*, throwing much light upon the perplexed nature of the hybrids of that genus; the same naturalist also spoke on the genus *Hieracium*, and recommended, as the best means of preserving a herbarium, exposing it to the heat of an oven. He said that, as long as he had adopted those preventive means, his collection had not been attacked by insects and other animals known as the enemies of dried plants.

Mr. Berthold Seemann, of London, read a paper 'On *Stillingia sebifera*, and other Vegetable Products.' He called attention to the commercial importance of the former, and gave an account of the great amount of vegetable tallow annually consumed in Great Britain. Dr. Brandis, of Bonn, read a paper 'On the Showers of Grain fallen in some districts on the Rhine,' (and reported at the time in the 'Literary Gazette.') The grain, which some Belgian savants thought to have fallen from some other planet, and German botanists declared to be the seeds of *Veronicas* and *Antirrhinums*, are fungi (*Sclerotium Semen*, Tode.) Dr. Brandis said that he considered most *Sclerotiums* not as full grown plants, but merely as the begin-

ning of plants, which changed afterwards into different species of *Clavaria*, *Agaricus*, and even *Penicillium*, a view originally advanced, we believe, by Leveille. Dr. Schultz, bipont., made some remarks on the present state of Systematic Botany, and censured the pretensions of the physiologists and anatomists, who everywhere, he said, were endeavouring to represent themselves as the only truly scientific botanists, and all the rest as unscientific. He agreed with those who had called them the 'arrogant' instead of the 'scientific' phytologists; and maintained that science would be best served if the two parties would live in harmony, and rather try to assist each other than to quarrel.

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 3rd.—W. Hopkins, Esq., President, in the chair. T. Davidson, Esq., was elected a Fellow. The following communication was read:—'On a proposed Separation of the Caradoc Sandstone into two Distinct Groups, viz., "May Hill Sandstone" and "Caradoc Sandstone." By the Rev. Prof. Sedgwick, F.R.S. The author first gave in detail the evidence showing the existence—between Helmskill, and Thornbeck, near Ingleton (a tract of about ten miles in length, where no traces of the Coniston limestone had previously been discovered)—of the three great Coniston groups:—1. (lowest) Limestone; 2. Flagstones; 3. Grits; surmounted by the Ireleth slate; which were treated of in the author's last communication to the Society. Prof. Sedgwick then alluded to his recent examination, in company with Prof. M'Coy, of some of the Malvern and May Hill sections, and stated his conviction that the shelly sandstones and grits immediately underlying the Woolhope (or Lower Wenlock) limestone at Dursley Cross, west of May Hill, and forming the upper beds of the central dome of May Hill, are not to be regarded as "Caradoc," but as belonging to the Wenlock group; and he gives them the name of "May Hill sandstones." On paleontological grounds the author considers these beds to form the base of the Silurian series (Upper Silurian of Murchison), whilst the Cambrian (Lower Silurian of Murchison) commences with the Caradoc sandstone and Bala group; the faunas of these two great series, thus defined, being characteristically distinct. Similar conclusions were arrived at with respect to the purple sandstones, &c., under the Obelisk in Eastnor-park. The fossils from Howler's Heath also were found to confirm this opinion; and the inverted beds on the west flank of the Worcestershire Beacon afforded fossils of the same character as the "May Hill sandstones" above mentioned. The Professor regards the Coniston grits of Cambria, and the sandstones and conglomerates at the base of the Denbigh flags in North Wales, as the equivalents of the May Hill sandstone, and not the equivalents of the sandstones of Horderly and Caer Caradoc, as represented on the map of the Geological Survey. The paper concluded with some observations on the nomenclature of the Silurian and Cambrian rocks, British and foreign.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.—Statistical, 8 p.m.—(1. John Crawford, Esq., on the History and Consumption of Tobacco; 2. John Locke, Esq. (of the Encumbered Estates Court, Dublin), on the Valuation and Purchase of Land in Ireland.)
— Chemical, 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)
— Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.
— Linnean, 8 p.m.
Wednesday.—Geological, 8½ p.m.—(1. H. E. Strickland, Esq., on the Ludlow Bone Bed and its Organic Contents; 2. Sir R. I. Murchison and Prof. M'Coy, on the Organic Remains in the Ludlow Bone Bed; 3. Notice of the Occurrence of an Earthquake in the Azores, communicated by order of Lord Malmesbury; 4. A. G. Bain, Esq., on the Geology of Southern Africa, communicated by the President.)
— School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mechanical Science, 1 p.m.)
Thursday.—School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)
— Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
— Royal, 8½ p.m.
— Harveian, 8 p.m.
Friday.—School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mechanical Science, 1 p.m.)
Saturday.—Asiatic, 2 p.m.

MUSIC.

THE first performance of the SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY for the season took place in Exeter Hall last Friday, under the conduct of M. Costa. As a tribute of respect to the memory of Wellington, the 'Dead March,' the air, 'Ye Sons of Israel,' by Miss Williams, and the fine chorus, 'Glorious Hero,' from Handel's *Samson*, were first given. The singers, orchestra, and chorus, were in mourning for the occasion. Mendelssohn's posthumous oratorio, *Christus*, produced at the last Birmingham Festival, was for the first time given in London. In some of the choruses there were signs of insufficient rehearsal; but this must be expected in a new work of such a stamp, the study of which so many hundred voices require time to master. There was nothing, however, to warrant the criticism of a contemporary, that 'the performance was discreditable to the Society;' and in one instance specified, the singular mistake is made of ascribing to the performers as a fault what was purposely the art of the composer, the wildness and irregularity of the chorus, 'Crucify Him,' being charged by this critic to the inaccuracy and unsteadiness of the singers! The recitatives were finely given by Mr. Lockey, and the trio, 'Say, where is He born?' by Messrs. Lockey, Phillips, and Barnby, was beautifully sung. One unpleasant point struck us, in the abrupt transition from the chorus, 'Then shall a Star,' referring to the birth of Christ, to the trial before Pilate, 'And the multitude arose.' The piece consists of three separate fragments of an unfinished work, and between the opening passages and the second group of choruses, in totally different style, some pause, if not an organ interlude, some apposite passage from Mendelssohn's works, might not unfitly be interposed.

The oratorio of the evening was Spohr's masterpiece, *The Last Judgment*, which never was heard with finer effect. The choruses were faultless, and the solos were admirably given by Lockey, Phillips, Mrs. Endersohn, and Miss Williams, as well as the fine quartetts of the oratorio, at some of which applause was scarcely restrained.

On Friday morning the Hall was re-opened by an organ performance by Mr. J. L. Brownsmith, organist of the Sacred Harmonic Society. Some of Handel's fine pieces, including the 'Dead March in Saul,' 'Angels ever Bright and Fair,' and the 'Hallelujah Chorus,' with selections from Mozart and other composers, and also Luther's 'Old Hundredth Psalm,' and the 'Queen's Anthem,' were given with admirable effect. There have been great improvements made in the organ by Mr. Walker, the builder, during the recess. Among other additions, that of the powerful ophicleide stop will tell effectively in large choral points. The position of the organ has also been changed, and brought more forward, and the whole platform being lowered, the advantage will be great both to the chorus and to the audience. In the decorating and lighting of the Hall there are also great improvements since last season. Facility of ingress and egress is now the only important desideratum in Exeter Hall.

On Monday evening, M. JULLIEN'S CONCERTS, AT DRURY LANE, commenced with great success. This, the fourteenth series of these concerts, is to be the last, previous to the conductor's projected visit to America. We have always gladly awarded to M. Jullien the praise, not only of being one of the most agreeable providers of public amusement, but as having the higher merit of extending the popular taste for the highest style of musical composition. Before he came amongst us, no attempt had been made to bring before a popular audience music which had hitherto been reserved for select assemblies. It is no slight proof of progress in the national taste, that the finest and most recondite works of Beethoven or Mendelssohn are listened to at M. Jullien's 'monster concerts,' not with patience merely, but with lively interest. On Monday evening Mendelssohn's *scherzo*, from the *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Weber's overture to *Euryanthe*, a funeral march from Beethoven's symphony *Eroica*,

and other fine pieces, were admirably performed, and well received by the audience. The programme presented an extensive miscellany, both of vocal and instrumental music. Mdle. Anna Zerr gave the aria of 'The Queen of Night,' from Mozart's *Zauberflöte*, with the brilliancy of florid *bravura* in which she excels. The clearness and correctness of her high notes are unrivalled among our present singers; and the animation of gesture, even on the concert platform, increases the effect of her voice. Her appearances at the opera last season, and at the Birmingham Festival in the summer, have secured for Mdle. Zerr a high place in public favour. All the well-known masters of instrumental performance, such as Prospère, Koenig, Baumann, Remusat, Collinet, Cioffi, were heard in effective solos. M. Arban, on the cornet, performed admirably, although his art was severely tested in rivalry with Herr Koenig, both players being brought together in a new polka by M. Jullien, 'Les Echos de Mont Blanc.' Of new performers there were two Germans, the brothers Mollinhuier, who performed a violin duet with great precision and taste, and M. Wricke, of Brussels, whose mastery of the clarinet was witnessed at one of the concerts of the Musical Union, last season. Of pieces of established popularity, M. Jullien gave selections with his wonted judgment, and the variety introduced on successive nights have ensured unabated interest in the concerts throughout the week. The decorations, and other adjuncts of the entertainment, are prepared with the usual bounty, not omitting the reading-room, with its polyglott newspapers.

Rossini's *Motse* has been reproduced at the Grand Opera at Paris, with the triumphant success such a majestic work well deserves. It was first represented at Paris, in 1827, and has been unaccountably neglected of late years. Obin was the *Moses*, Morelli, the *Pharaoh*, and both sang admirably; the other leading parts by Gueymard, Chapuis, and Guignot, were not so well supported. In the female parts, Madame Laborde and Mdle. Poinot acquitted themselves creditably—especially the latter.

M. Clapisson's new three-act opera, the *Mystères d'Udolphe*, has been brought out at the Opéra Comique. Its success has not come up to public expectation. The libretto, though it bears the name of Scribe, is wretched, and the plot is execrable. This made the composer's task too difficult for him; but, nevertheless, he has contrived to introduce several *morceaux* of great beauty—amongst which a trio, a duo, and the finale in the first act, and a duo and a *morceau d'ensemble* without accompaniment, in the third, were specially noticed. The third act, taken altogether, is the best of the three. The opera was ably supported by Mdles. Meolan and Meillet, and by M. Dufresne. At the same house the ever-popular *Postillon de Lonjumeau*, of Adam, has been reproduced, with Chollet as the *Postilion*.

A new opera of high merit, *La Fiorina*, is said to have been produced at the Carlo Felice at Genoa. At Bologna, Mdle. Gazzaniga appears with great success in *Norma*. At Rome the favourite at present is Mdme. Barbiera Nini. Mdme. Clara Novello

is delighting the people of Madrid, where, with Mdme. Angri and Signor Coletti, her name attracts crowds at the Oriente in the *Semiramide*.

From Berlin we learn that Jenny Lind is about to perform in that city, at a series of concerts to be given on behalf of the Society of Gustavus Adolphus, which was formed for relieving poor Protestant communities in Sweden and in the north of Germany.

THE DRAMA.

IN the absence of any dramatic novelty at the Theatres, we may this week call attention to a clever monologue entertainment at the quondam ADELAIDE GALLERY, entitled *The Carpet Bag and Sketch Book*. It is a character representation, with speaking songs, and imitations, in the style of Mathews's 'At Home,' and we do not exaggerate in saying that the performance is little inferior in merit to that of the renowned mimic. Mr. Woodin's ladies are admirable, and his imitation of the singing of Mr. Henry Russell is excellent.

At the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE another monologue entertainment, of greater pretension, but of very inferior merit, was commenced on Monday by Mr. Henry Smith, under the title of *Voyages to, and Travels in Australia*. It proved, however, to be sad trash, literary, pictorially, and vocally.

The VANBRUGH CLUB gave a performance on Wednesday, at the Soho Theatre, late Miss Kelly's. Mr. White's historical play, *Feudal Times*, Mr. Planché's comedy, *The Captain of the Watch*, and *Box and Cox*, formed the entertainments of the evening. The latter was very cleverly acted by two brothers, and Mr. Planché's sprightly piece could not have been better performed. In the Scottish play, the characters of *King James III.*, *Douglas*, *Lord Angus*, *Cochrane*, *Earl of Mar*, and *Margaret Randolph*, were admirably sustained by Messrs. Vincent, Wood, Grey, and Mrs. Henderson. The elocution of *Douglas* was a little too closely Macreadyish, but was well adapted to the character. In spite of occasional rustiness in the scenery, and an orchestra whose music would never have moved the walls of Troy to build themselves, the entertainment gave complete satisfaction to a crowded audience. The Vanbrugh Club is conducted with much spirit, and since the retirement of the company of the Literary Guild, contains some of the best amateur performers at present in the field.

The Manchester papers speak with much enthusiasm of the performances of Miss Helen Faucit in that town. "Her *Beatrice*," says the 'Examiner' and 'Times,' "is the perfection of an impulsive nature, that blushes at its own exuberance; bubbling over with wit—but the most delicate of wits. When she bids *Benedick* kill *Claudio*, or when she tells us she could 'eat his heart in the market-place,' what earnestness of purpose, and yet how satisfied are we that she is no cannibal. We see at a glance, without the aid of any interpreter, that it is the honesty of her nature, the confidence she has in her own purity, that permits—nay, prompts such outspeaking.

NEW STORY OF THE DAY, BY THE AUTHOR OF "ANTONINA."

On Monday, the 15th of November, in 3 vols. post 8vo,

Basil:

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JULIEN'S last season of Concerts previous to his departure for America. For One Month only. On MONDAY, November 18, and every Evening during the week, the renowned Prima Donna, Mlle. Anna Zerr, will sing. Herr Koenig and Monsieur Arban, the Brothers Mollinhaus, Monsieur Wulle, the celebrated Clarinetist, and Monsieur Lavigne will also perform. The Programmes, which will be changed every Evening, will include M. Julien's new Valse, "Les Echos du Mont Blanc," the new Valse, "Paul et Virginie," the Valse "Hollandaise," a new Quadrille from Pietro il Grande, selections from popular Operas, several Works of the Great Masters, &c., &c. Commence at 8 o'clock.
N.B.—The Theatre being let at Christmas for Dramatic Performances, the Concerts can continue for one month only.

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20	0 17 7	0 19 7	1 13 11	1 19 5
25	1 1 1	1 3 0	1 18 7	2 4 3
30	1 4 4	1 6 7	2 3 11	2 9 9
35	1 8 2	1 10 6	2 10 6	2 16 6
40	1 12 0	1 14 2	2 18 3	3 4 5
45	1 15 9	2 0 5	3 9 3	3 15 7
50	2 4 6	2 10 4	4 3 3	4 9 9
55	2 13 1	3 3 4	5 0 10	5 7 6
60	3 11 0	4 5 11	6 5 6	6 12 6

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DURABILITY of GUTTA PERCHA TUBING.
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Giessen, July 24, 1852. **JUSTUS LIEBIG.**

N.B.—The Baron's original letter is in the hands of Mr. Miller, at the Jerusalem Coffee-House, Cornhill, where it may be seen by any one taking an interest in the matter.

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